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SPERM/ A18

GOOD fortune visits business establishments in the heart of Chinatown in Binondo to usher in today the eve of the lunar new year. ERIK ARAZAS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, January 31, 2003 ★★ 108 pages / 12 sections / vol. 18 / no. 54 P15

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Sin to GMA: Back Pope, not Bush

By Armand N. Nocum, Carlito Pablo and Cynthia Balana

REMINDING her of Pope John Paul II's declaration that war "is always a defeat for humanity," Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo not to support a US war on Iraq.

"This is now a good opportunity for you to follow the Holy Father rather than be aligned with the superpowers of the world," Sin said in a pastoral letter issued on the day US President George W. Bush delivered his State of the Union Ad-

SIN TO GMA/ A18

HOME far away from the sounds of fury, these Filipino workers arrive on Thursday from Kuwait where already American troops have been massing for a possible strike on Iraq. ROGER MARGALLO

Baghdad warns Muslims will hit US facilities

WASHINGTON—Muslims around the world will attack US facilities in the event of war, warned Baghdad's ambassador to the United Nations.

President George W. Bush will launch a final diplomatic push in the next few days.

But the United States faces an uphill struggle in winning international support for a war against Iraq, with the majority of UN Security Council members calling for more weapons inspections and a peaceful disarming of Baghdad.

Neither the largely negative reports from UN inspectors nor US Bush's combative State of the Union Address has altered the positions of key council mem-

BAGHDAD/ A18

Highest growth since '97

Economy rose 4.6% last year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy grew 4.6 percent last year, the highest since the 1997 Asian economic crisis, and could expand even at a faster pace this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

In a news conference, Ms Macapagal said the result was well above the government's official gross domestic product forecast of 4 to 4.5 percent and the previous year's expansion of 3.2 percent.

Growth in the country's gross national product was at 5.2 percent in 2002 from 3.4 percent in 2001, spurred largely by a 15.5-percent growth in net factor income from abroad, mostly in the form of dollar remittances by Filipinos working and living abroad.

"It is the strongest economic performance since the 1997 Asian economic crisis. This growth must now be translated to social equity," Ms Macapagal told reporters after announcing the figures.

GDP refers to the monetary value of all the goods and services produced by an economy over a specified period. It includes consumption, government purchases, investments and exports minus imports. It is perhaps the best indicator of the economic health of a country.

The government is forecasting GDP growth this year at 4.2 to 5.2 percent, depending on the situation in Iraq and the effect of the El Niño weather phenomenon this year, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said.

Economists had predicted GDP growth of 4 to 4.5 percent in 2002, but some expressed surprise at the better than expected result.

Neri said growth was achieved by strength in all sectors of the economy, with services posting the biggest upturn of 5.4 percent compared with 4.4 percent in 2001.

"Growth of all production sectors surpassed expectations," he said.

Neri credited the strong growth in 2002 to macroeconomic stability achieved in the past two years, as well as structural reforms, such as the deregulation of the telecommunications and

HIGHEST/ A18

PRESIDENT Macapagal is the special guest and speaker during the 12th anniversary celebration of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame on Thursday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Bishops gagged on Yalung sex scandal; kin sad

By Armand N. Nocum and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ARCHBISHOPS and bishops of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday refused to comment on the sanctions that await Antipolo Bishop Crisostomo Yalung should Vatican investigators find that he impregnated a woman.

The Vatican announced the resignation of Yalung, a theology scholar and writer, last Dec. 7.

While the bishops kept mum on orders of "higher Church authorities," Yalung's relatives in Porac, Pampanga, could talk of nothing else.

"We were shocked," said 88-year-old Ricardo Yalung on the INQUIRER report about his nephew, whom he had raised like his own son.

The elder Yalung speaking in Kapampangan said he did not believe that his nephew had fathered a child.

"I would not believe it because my nephew had never done any foolishness," said Ricardo.

He said the reports on the alleged indiscretion, which reached him last Dec. 9, had given him sleepless nights.

Ricardo was visibly sad during the interview held at the Yalungs' ancestral house in Barangay Sta. Cruz

BISHOPS/ A19

Mother of 3 kids Army's first woman battalion commander

By Martin P. Marfil

A MOTHER of three young children has been named battalion commander, the first woman in the history of the Philippine Army to hold such a post.

As head of the Aviation Battalion of the Light Armor Brigade, Lt. Col. Ramona Palabrica Go, 45, is in charge of the welfare of more than 100 soldiers and their six fixed-wing aircraft. Some of these planes have been deployed in Cotabato with the 6th Infantry Division, which is battling the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the bandit group Pentagon Gang.

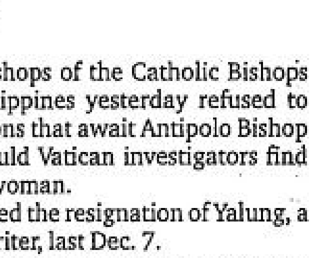
"This is exciting, very challenging," said Go, daughter of a Constabulary soldier.

"I will make sure that no Army plane crashes," she added.

Go, who is based in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and who flies a Cessna, has had no combat experience.

Her unit is now basically employed as a reconnaissance and surveillance group, at which her experience as intelligence officer in the National Intelligence Security Agency (Nisa) may be put to use.

MOTHER/ A20



LT. COL RAMONA P. GO makes history as commander of the Aviation Battalion, Light Armor Brigade.

Civilians can't carry guns outside residence

By Carlito Pablo

CIVILIANS licensed to own guns will no longer be allowed to carry their firearms in public places and will be required to seek special permits even for target shooting.

"Rascals in uniform"—or the "Abakada" cops who are *abusado* (abusive), *bastos* (uncouth), *kotongero* (mulcting) or *di kanais-nais* (undesirable)—will be put behind bars.

These two points made up the highlights of President Macapagal-Arroyo's speech yesterday at Camp Crame, on the occasion of the 12th anniversary celebration of the Philippine National Police. She said the directives were intended to bust crime syndicates enjoying police protection and to prevent "high-profile crimes," presumably including the Jan. 23 killing of ex-rebel leader Romulo Kintanar, for which the New People's Army has claimed responsibility.

In a move that, she said, would expectedly be criticized by advocates of "responsible gun ownership," the President directed PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to "suspend indefinitely" the issuance to civilian gun owners of permits to carry firearms outside their residences (PTCFORs).

CIVILIANS/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/31/03

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Dutch vow to help bring back Joma

By Norman Bordadora,
Donna S. Cueto and Carlito Pablo

FOREIGN Secretary Blas Ople yesterday said the Netherlands would support efforts of the Macapagal administration to bring Communist Party of the Philippines chair Jose Maria Sison back to Manila to face murder charges.

"I received the commitment of the Dutch government of their full cooperation in serving the ends of justice," Ople said in a statement issued from Brussels.

Ople said Dutch Secretary of State for European Affairs Atzo Nicolai issued the commitment as the two met at the sidelines of the the 14th Asean-European Union Ministerial Meeting in Brussels.

"Mr. Nicolai informed me that even the Dutch public was losing interest in Mr. Sison's antics and would be supportive of actions that would lead to bringing Mr. Sison to the bar of justice," Ople said.

"During our discussions, Mr. Nicolai also felt assured that Philippine law would treat Mr. Sison fairly and his rights would be observed," Ople added.

The Philippine government is holding Sison responsible for, among others, the recent killing of former New People's Army chief Romulo Kintanar and former Cagayan congressman Rodolfo Aguinaldo in 2001.

Manila and Amsterdam have yet to sign an extradition treaty. Without such a pact, the Philippines could not compel the Netherlands to surrender Sison to Filipino authorities.

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday that the Dutch government could be asked that Sison be surrendered, but compliance was not compulsory. Amsterdam could accommodate the request based on "comity" or respect for the requesting state.

Malacañang said yesterday it was counting on the Netherlands to "deliver" Sison, currently in exile at Utrecht.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that the Dutch government could follow the example set by Malaysia. He called attention to Kuala Lumpur's handing over then fugitive Moro National Liberation Front chair Nur Misuari to Manila authorities two years ago.

"This could be the model in pursuing the case of Sison," Bunye said.

Misuari had fled to Malaysia after his forces attacked Philippine military installations in Sulu. He is now detained in a police camp in Laguna under rebellion charges.

"We have more reason to convince the Dutch government to deliver Sison back to the country," Bunye said. "The Philippines and the Netherlands are part of the international coalition against terrorism."

Ople said the Dutch government deeply understood and fully appreciated the "fundamental value of justice and the need to address the sufferings of the victims of Mr. Sison."

He also announced that the European Union had renewed its commitment to retain the New People's Army and Sison on its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

"I told Mr. Nicolai that we hoped that Mr. Sison and the NPA be retained on the terror lists in the face of the campaigns of Mr. Sison and his sympathizers for their removal from the list," Ople said.

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Gov't has P1M for each town

By Gil Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG is planning to grant P1 million for each town in the Philippines as part of its P30 billion lending program to micro businesses and small- and medium-enterprises (SMEs).

This was revealed by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II to explain the P1 million checks President Macapagal-Arroyo handed out to 48 mayors in Cebu.

Sen. John Osmeña had questioned the distribution of the checks.

With a total of 1,496 towns in the country, Malacañang's local government unit lending program would require a total of P1.496 billion.

Roxas said the P1 million checks were not dole-outs but loan allocations to town mayors to be used for re-lending to their constituents. "They can lend it out to their market vendors groups for their businesses. We think the mayors are a good avenues for relending because they know their constituents more than the banks themselves," Roxas said.

Asked if the government was taking too much risk on lending to SMEs through the mayors, Roxas replied that the government's previous SME lending program Tulong sa Tao had a repayment rate of 85 percent. The loans would be lent at 10 percent interest a year.

Roxas said the checks would be initially funded from the President's social fund and later replenished by money from government financial institutions.

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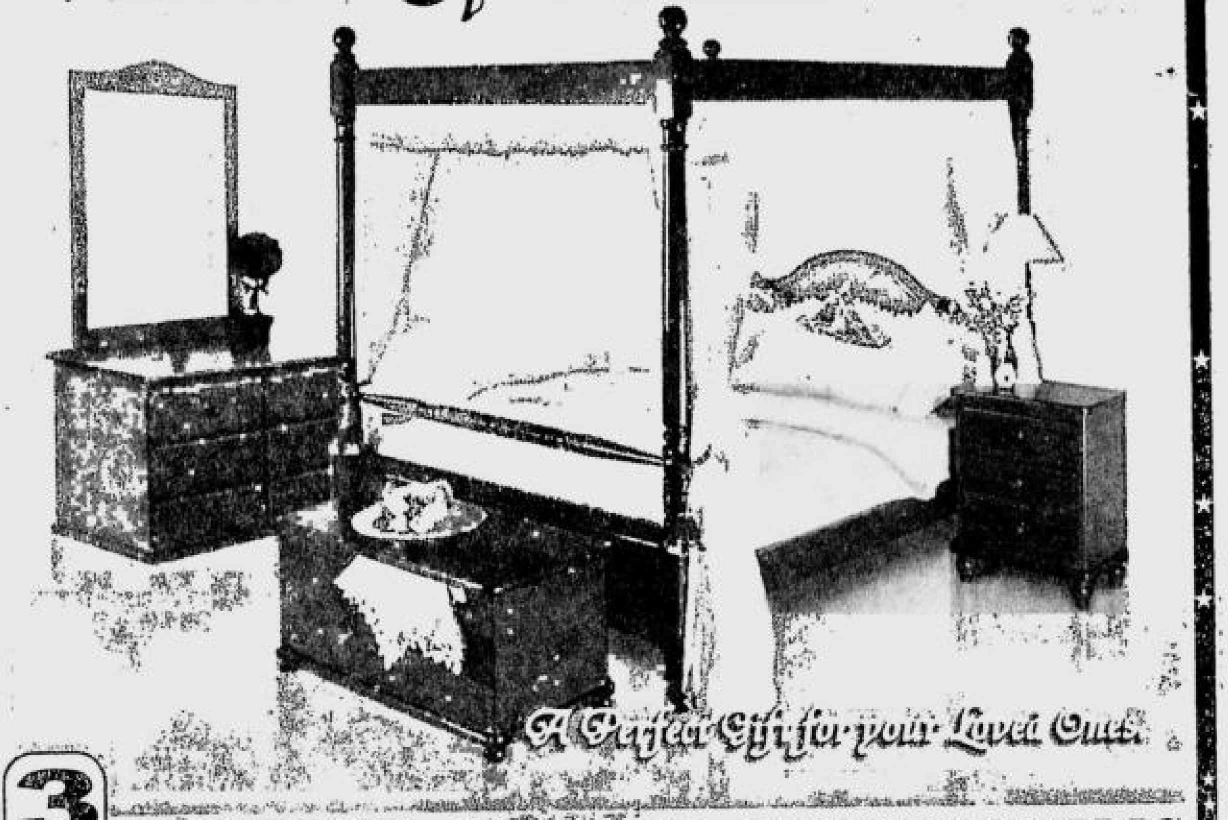

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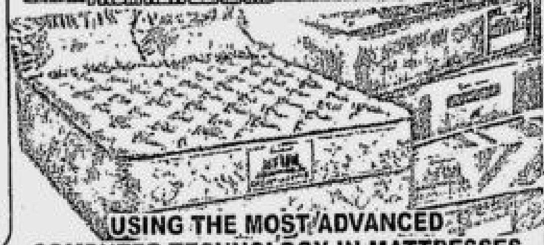

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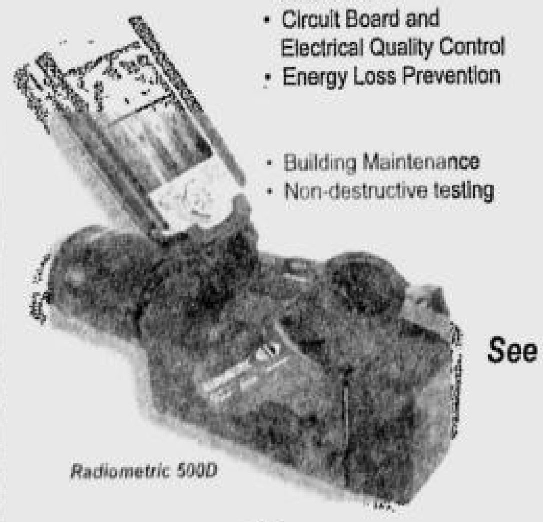

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Jobseekers warned against going to Indonesia

THE LABOR department yesterday warned Filipinos against going to Indonesia in the hope of obtaining working visas for Europe and North America.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said many recruiters promise applicants work visas as soon as they arrive in Indonesia.

Sto. Tomas said that many Filipinos agree to enter Indonesia as tourists thinking that they could proceed to North America, Western Europe and Japan.

Sto. Tomas said that the Philippine embassy in Jakarta has already issued a travel advisory concerning the matter. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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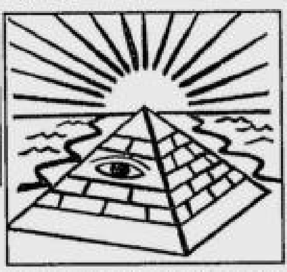

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BIG TIME SA NEGOSYO AT BUSINESS DEALS!
Zaldy Pineda ng Makati City: Just two weeks pagkabili ng Green and White Lucky Pyramids sa JC Herbal, nanalo P200,000.00 sa Casino. Then, after few months, ang pinakamalaking SUWERTE dumating ay na close niya real estate deal worth P120 Million (with Mr. Gokongwie) Nagka commission worth P6.5 Million, then bumili ng condo. unit worth P3.5M.
"I bought Green Lucky Pyramid and after a month, I was able to start my dream business. A capital worth P1Million came to me for the business. Also, I was able to close a project and buy a house worth P10M." Si Chia Aquino, Eye Magazine Publisher.
Ms. E.O. (Binondo, Manila). bumili Wishing Plant and Brown Lucky Pyramid sa JC Herbal Center, then few weeks after, was so lucky to close a business deal worth P45 Million (last June 13, 2002).
Si Marcian Garcia ng Mabuhay Homes, Cal., Lag. nakabili ng Lucky Pyramid dito sa JC Herbal at totoong umunlad ang negosyo. P20,000.00 Linggo-linggo ang kinikita niya kaya nakapagpagawa ng bahay na worth P200,000.00" Nagpatotoo; Amalia ng Tunyog, Taguig Jan. 14, 2003
MGA MASUSUWERTENG NAKA-JACKPOT SA LOTTO! AT BINGO!
Dalawang Security Guard ng Harrison Plaza ang masusuwerteng naka-jackpot sa LOTTO. : 1.) Edwin P. P4.5 M ang tinamaan sa Lotto Jackpot, (ang Lucky Pyramid niya ay White w/ Face of Jesus Christ.) Umuwi na ng Ilo-ilo naglayo ng simpleng negosyo. 2.)si Castilve E. nakajackpot naman ng 17.6 M (ang kanyang Lucky Pyramid na nabili ay kulay RED) Ngayon siya'y naka Condo na, Naka Blue Pajero pa! SUWERTE!"
Ang Tita ng friend ko ang masuwerteng nakajackpot ng P81M POT sa SuperLotto noong March last year February nang bumili siya ng Lucky Pyramid at Wishing Plant dito sa JC Herbal. Nalaman n'ya ang tungkol sa Lucky Pyramid dahil napanood niya sa TV (Pipol) Ch. 2." Sr. Donna Labos ng Ynganta, QC.
Liza Tolentino, (1 Million), of Batangas City, Nanalo sa Bingo-Casino Filipino Oct 25 2002 Nakabili ng Lucky Pyramid
Jhanet Bolalin, (1 Million). Nanalo sa Farmer's Plaza (12/19/98) 1 week, pagkabili ng Gold Lucky Pyramid
Maryfe M. ng Pasig nanalo ng 2 beses jackpot sa Bingo, P100,000.00. May nagamit na pambayad sa panganganak (caesarian) at nabigyan ang parents sa panalo 9/15/02
Aling Gloria ng Dasma., Cavite, 4 na beses ng nananalo sa Bingo buhat ng gumamit ng Pampayaman na Bolpen Jan 18, 2003
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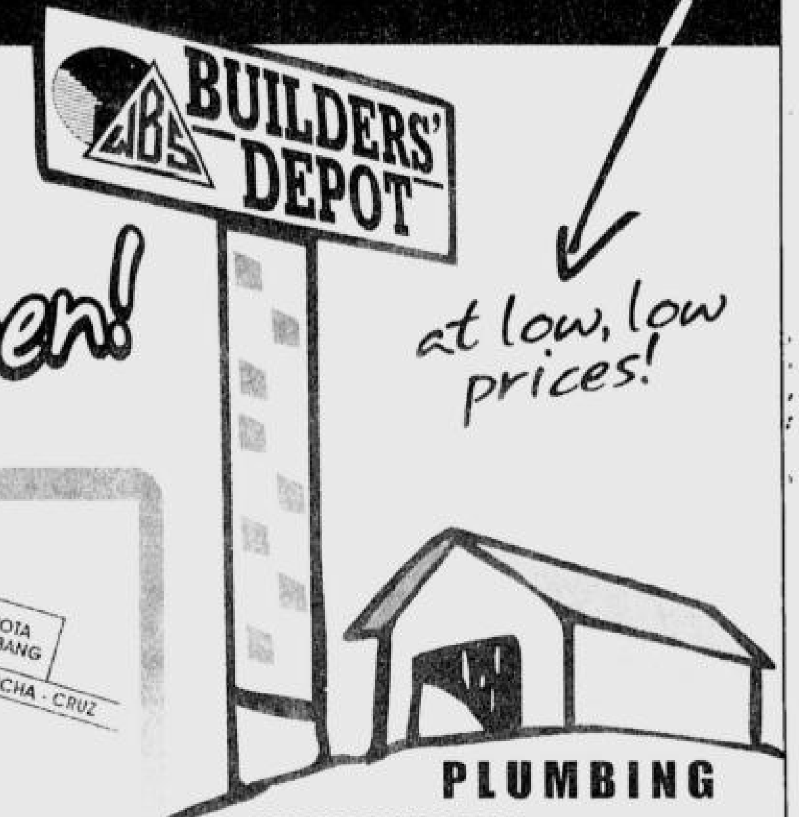
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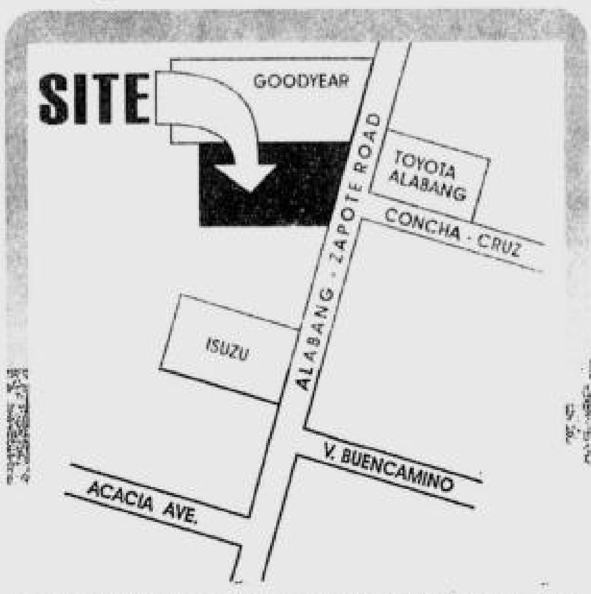

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GMA's 'back to English' thrust gains support

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday brushed off criticism of her order that schools use English as the sole medium of instruction, saying it was imperative to keep the Philippines globally competitive. She also got support from lawmakers and educators, including an educational foundation established by business tycoon Lucio Tan.

The Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE) said the Malacañang order would stem the erosion of the language among Filipino students.

"This is one of the basic skills everybody should have, having a good command of the English language," said FUSE president Salvador H. Escudero III. "Our efforts to upgrade the teaching of our science, math and physics subjects will be boosted by making English as the medium of instruction in schools."

The President's order covers elementary grades and high school in both public and private schools.

Escudero also noted that businesses have difficulty in recruiting employees because of deficiencies in English, which "is unfortunate because we consider ourselves as one of the countries in the world whose mode of communication is English."

Established in April 1994 with Tan as vice chairman, FUSE has conducted teacher-training programs in English, science and mathematics nationwide.

Tan said Ms Macapagal's directive would help Filipinos to become competitive again given the inroads gained by the emerging markets in Southeast Asia in the global economy.

Escudero, a former agriculture secretary and six-year member of the House committee on education, said FUSE will launch this year pilot trainings projects for specific geographic areas, particularly the poorest island provinces in the Visayas.

Rep. Edmundo Reyes, chair of the House committee on basic education and culture, said the country has to restore English as its primary means of instruction, especially now that it was losing its competitive edge over other labor exporting countries.

Reyes said China, for instance, is now investing heavily on educating its people on English communication as a crash program for the Olympic Games it will host in 2008. English speaking Chinese, he said, pose a threat to our migrant workers since they are willing to work for less pay.

He said Filipinos are wanted abroad as seamen, nurses, teachers, and caregivers because of their proficiency in English.

"The restoration of English as the medium of instruction is a way of preparing the succeeding generations to be globally competitive," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"The world is our market and in these times of intense competition, we have to make sure that we are not left behind and that language will never be a barrier for us to achieve our goal. This is important for the alleviation of poverty."

However, the Alliance for Concerned Teachers was not happy as it denounced Ms Macapagal as "the arch-enemy of the nationalist movement." The alliance chairman, Antonio Tinio, said in a statement that "her education policy will wipe out the gains that have been made in promoting Filipino as the medium of instruction." *Christine Avendano, Volt Contreras and AFP*

Frat alumni induction

SENIOR Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Reynaldo S. Puno will be guest speaker and will induct the new set of officers and directors of the Alpha Phi Beta Alumni Association, Inc. during its monthly fellowship today at the Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan.

The new set who will be inducted are: Rene Valdecantos, lord chancellor; Raul Villanueva, vice chancellor for internal affairs; Butch Agnir, vice chancellor for finance; Raul Pagtalunan, vice chancellor for external affairs; Bee Magtanong, secretary general; Mar Reyes, auditor general; Percy Rosales, deputy secretary general and Vic Trinidad, deputy secretary general.

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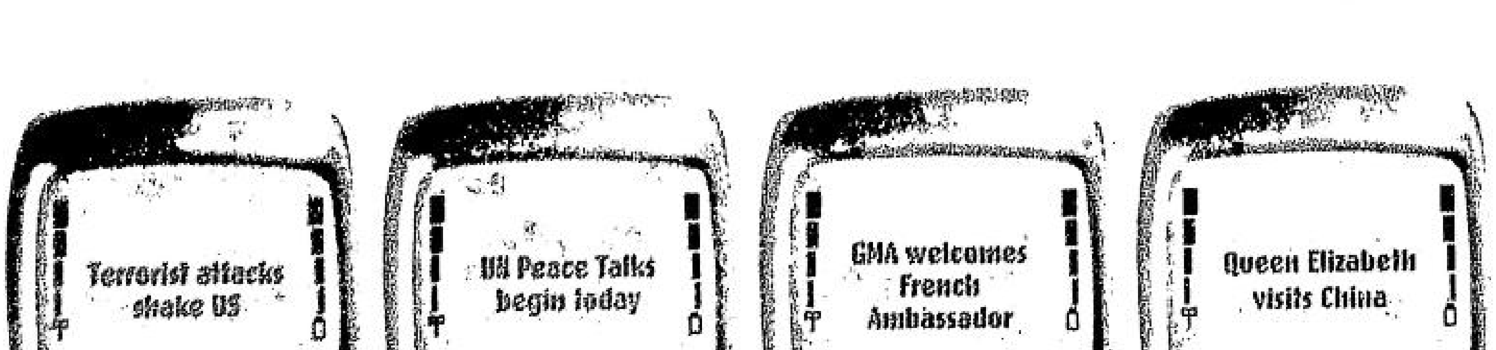

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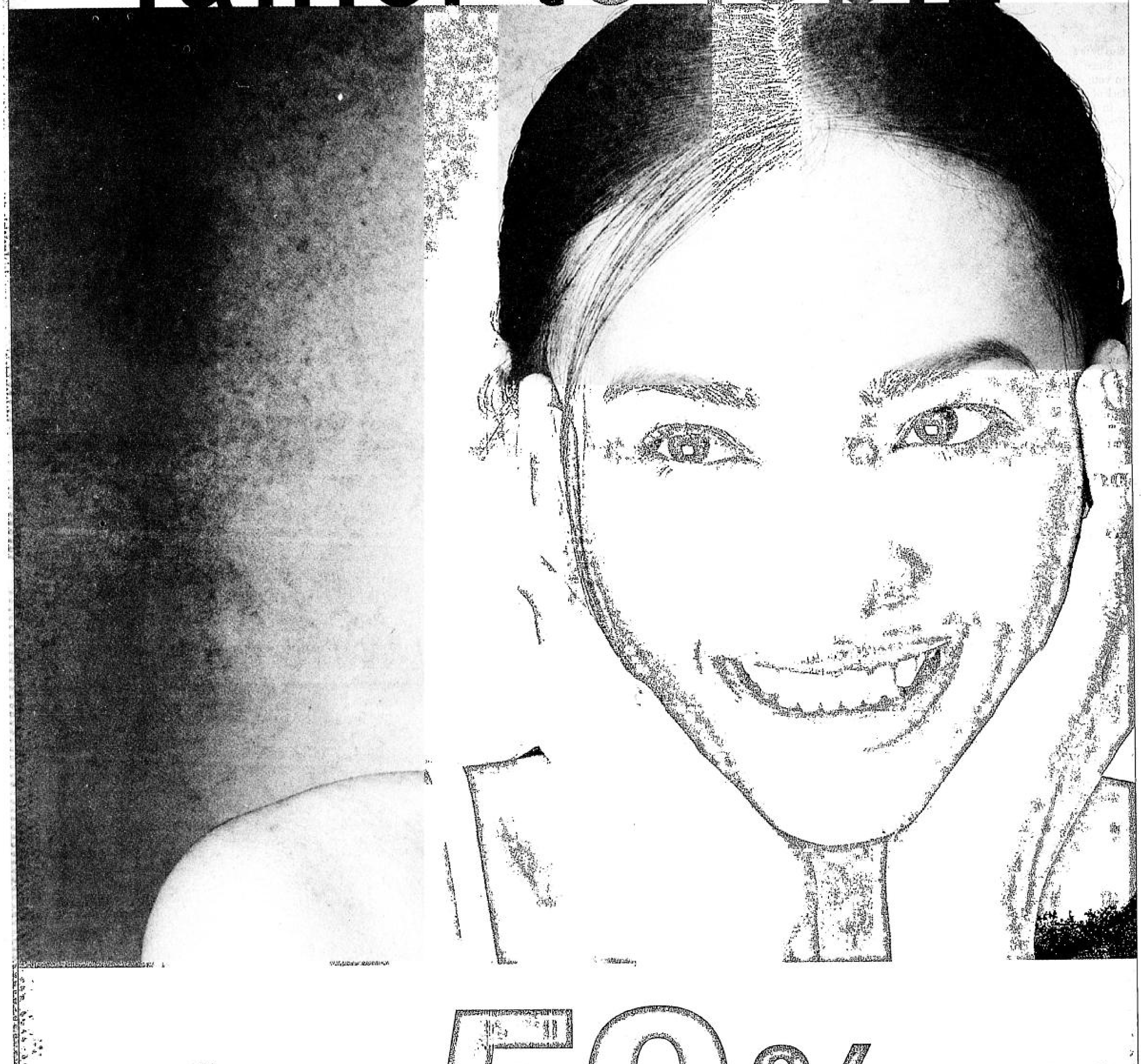

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DFA summons Indon envoy

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs will summon Indonesian charge d'affaires Alexander Naturiuw to shed light on the sinking on Monday in Northern Sulawesi of four Filipino fishing boats and the arrest of their 49 crew members, a ranking DFA official said yesterday.

The source said the DFA would ask Jakarta for a copy of the Indonesian government's rules of engagement with regard to foreign poachers caught fishing in the country's exclusive economic zone.

An Indonesian navy frigate sank four Philippine-registered fishing boats in the waters off Northern Sulawesi near Manado. The Filipinos were allegedly fishing illegally in the Indonesian waters.

"We need to know if there was anything irregular on how the operation was done by the Indonesian Navy," the DFA official said on condition of anonymity.

The 49 Filipinos were rescued by the Indonesian authorities. They are now detained in Bitun also in Northern Sulawesi.

Tancangco ouster rap: Solons have until Tuesday

THE HOUSE has until Tuesday to vote on the impeachment complaint against Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales said yesterday Tuesday would be the last of the 10 session days allowed by impeachment rules for the House to vote on the justice committee report that has recommended dismissal of the impeachment complaint filed by the People vs Tancangco Movement.

Since Tuesday, the House has been unable to vote on the justice committee report for lack of a quorum.

In a phone interview, Gonzalez said the House may take the vote on Monday but not later than Tuesday.

He said that while the House had never voted on a committee report past the 10-day period, the Tancangco complaint "may enter into a period for everybody's opinion" if it is not voted on Tuesday.

Gonzales said some congressmen had opined the complaint could then be "archived."

"But I think it's up to the presiding officer to decide," he said.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, who had led the 55 congressmen who endorsed the complaint against Tancangco, said the group hopes to get the required 73 votes to overturn the House justice committee report by Tuesday.

Puentevella said that several congressmen who had been on Tancangco's side told him last night they had decided to vote against the justice committee report.

"Let's hope that a miracle happens by Tuesday," Puentevella said. *Christine O. Avendaño*

PCGG chief is latest victim of Palace jinx

By Donna Cueto and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A DAY after suffering a mild stroke in Malacañang, Haydee Yorac, the feisty chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, was in "stable" condition and could be back to work in a few days.

"She just needed some time to rest. We are all praying for her quick recovery," said PCGG press officer Nick Suarez.

Yorac is still "under observation" in the intensive care unit of the Medical Center Manila on UN Avenue but she is "conscious" and "okay," according to her staff.

Yorac was attending a meeting presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday when she began vomiting. She was rushed to the MCM where she was found to have suffered from a mild stroke.

She was the latest in a list of officials who have suffered a debilitating illness while at the Palace. One of the officials later died at a hospital.

This has led observers to wonder if this was all just coincidence or if Malacañang needed the services of a *feng shui* expert to cast out whatever "bad luck" may be lurking there.

On Dec. 16, Mayor Narcisita Moran of Jabonga, Agusan del Norte, suffered a heart attack at a dinner thrown by the President for town mayors. She was taken to a hospital where he died.

During the New Year *vin d'honneur* hosted by Ms Macapagal for diplomats on Jan. 9, one of the guests, Sarangani Rep. Ermin Chiongbian, was taken to a hospital due to hypertension.

At last year's Labor Day celebration, labor leader Felicisimo Carullo suffered a heart during an audience with the President.

Officials who worked in Malacañang were not spared from illness. Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo underwent a heart bypass operation last year.

Before him, his predecessor Renato de Villa underwent a similar operation before resigning.

And away from the Palace, Compostela Valley Gov. Jose Caballero suffered a heart attack during Ms Macapagal's state visit to Japan last December.

A member of the official delegation, Caballero had to remain behind in Tokyo for a week to recover sufficiently enough to travel home.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye could no longer ignore the string of "bad luck."

"The lesson maybe is you should learn how to relax, how to pace yourself," he told reporters yesterday.

But when another reporter asked if he thought Malacañang needed the services of a *feng shui* expert, Bunye became tongue-tied.

"You know... it's a very, ah... that's a difficult question," he said, grinning sheepishly. "Pass *na muna*, pass," he added.

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OPINION

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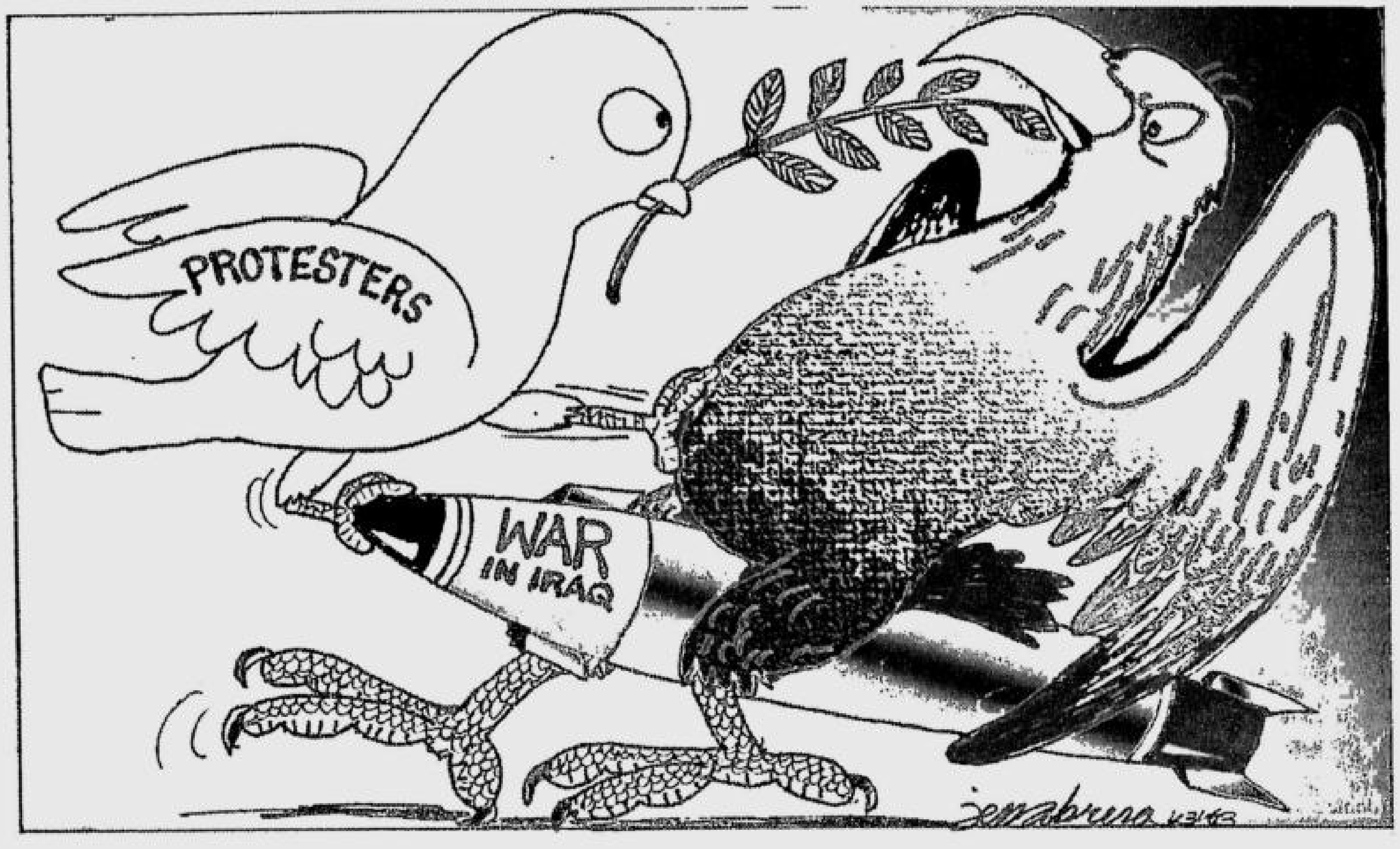


Vengeance

EDITORIAL

MARIA Gloria Kintanar, the widow of Romulo Kintanar, has vowed to "pursue all avenues" to bring her husband's communist assassins to justice. "We leave it to God to forgive those who killed him," she said rather ominously Wednesday during the final rites for the former chief of the New People's Army. On the same day, the Revolutionary Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade, a group that had broken away from the Communist Party of the Philippines, announced that it would drive away the NPA from areas now under its control, especially in Mindanao.

Earlier the NPA claimed responsibility for Kintanar's killing a week ago and announced that there would be no let-up in its campaign to wipe out "traitors to the revolution," meaning former communist comrades who struck out on a different path, following a bitter split over the appropriate strategy for winning their revolution. "Sooner or later, every traitor will fall," CPP spokesperson Roger Rosal warned. "They can escape and hide, but they can't escape and hide forever. Look at what happened to Kintanar."

Is a bloodbath close at hand, with communist comrades in the NPA fighting former comrades in the RPA-ABB? Nothing would please their old enemy, the government, more than to see them batter each other out of existence. But tempting though it might be to just step back and let the two factions get at each other's throat, the government cannot hope that this will bring about the final deliverance from more than three decades of communist insurgency. An open clash between the two factions will, in fact, serve to highlight the failure of the government's policy of encouraging rebels to take their struggle out of the battlefield and into the democratic process of elections.

Kintanar and scores of others who subscribed to a similar ideology were enticed to give up their armed struggle, but the government could not even guarantee their safety. Two years ago, Filemon Lagman was also shot to death by communist assassins on the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City. It is beginning to look as if coming out from the underground is as dangerous as staying there.

Kintanar's death certainly put on display again the government's ineptness in protecting the lives of citizens. Maybe it satisfied the CPP leadership's lust for revenge and served as a warning for others not to turn their back on their comrades in arms. But if this was all that the CPP achieved with Kintanar's killing, then they got the short end of the bargain.

For the government, the Kintanar assassination served to strengthen its case for keeping the label on the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization. That's no idle tag in this age of increasing cooperation among governments in the fight against terrorism. It could cost the likes of Jose Ma. Sison, who is believed to make the major decisions inside the CPP despite carrying the innocuous title of consultant, his sanctuary in the Netherlands or possibly even worse. This is the reason the CPP has made the lifting of its classification as a terrorist organization a precondition for any resumption of peace negotiations with the government.

To a people grown weary of the 34-year-old insurgency that has already claimed 43,338 lives, a quarter of them civilian, the killing of Kintanar served to confirm the government's charges that the CPP-NPA is a ruthless and vengeful organization that does not hesitate to kill even its own members. The Kintanar killing has revived memories of the savage purge of the late 1980s when scores of communist cadres were executed on suspicion that they were working as spies for the government. This image of brutality is not likely to go away if the killings continue as the bitter rivals in the communist movement have threatened to do.

One day the CPP-NPA may see itself fighting on two fronts, possibly three, if the terrorist tag stays and some foreign organizations join the fray. Is it ready to confront so many enemies?

But there's still a way it can disengage from such dangerous entanglements. It can go back to talking peace with the government. But before that, it should know that all the killings, the burning of buses and the destruction of telecommunications towers and heavy equipment don't look like demonstrations of strength, but acts of desperation. They won't win them the sympathy of the public, much less win them the revolution.

GSIS has P25-billion deficit

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from yesterday)

THIS is a continuation of the audit report on the financial statements for 2001 of the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System. The audits were made by the Commission on Audit (COA), the KPMG, an independent auditing firm commissioned by then SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas for the SSS investments in 1999 and 2000, and reviewed and summarized by the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), the only organization of SSS members committed to promote and protect the interest of SSS members, especially the retirees.

The PARP said they were "appalled" by what they discovered. They said their findings were submitted to the SSS, and its reply is included in their comments.

"By exposing our findings," PARP said, "we want all SSS members to know the actual situation of the SSS today so that together with PARP we can help find ways to protect and preserve the System."

"7. According to the COA audit report, of the P37.054 billion due from the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. (NHMFC), P10.398 billion was past due. NHMFC itself has been losing heavily (P3.639 billion) from 1997 to 2001. The prospect of collecting its loans and past due interest is practically nil.

"8. The then chair and SSS president Carlos Arellano was found by the independent auditor to have directed 84 percent of all stock investments outside the trading room of the stock exchange, bypassing investment committees in the SSS and paying excessive brokers' commission. It was established that internal trading documents were prepared after the fact on the basis of brokers' confirmation.

"9. When Arellano's successor as SSS president, Vitaliano Nañagas II, tried to institute reforms in the SSS, he was opposed by the majority of the employees headed by the EVP on Investments who felt threatened by the reforms of Nañagas. When they staged a strike despite the law prohibiting government employees from striking, President Macapagal-Arroyo, for reasons of her own, favored the strikers and kicked out Nañagas.

"10. SSS was the victim of both the graft-ridden investments and the illegal strike but the SSS has not lifted a finger to recover our funds nor to punish the responsible officials and illegal strikers. Only PARP filed complaints with the Ombudsman. Because we believe in the rule of law and because it was our money, not the government's, that was lost."

There are many more cases of irregular loans and investments of SSS listed in the COA and KPMG reports. "It behooves us members to do something to protect ourselves," said Amado F. Cabaero, PARP national president. "PARP has taken the initiative. But to be really effective, we need the support of more SSS members, active and retired.

Now for the GSIS:

According to a confidential report of the COA, GSIS incurred a P25.167-billion deficit in 2001 and cannot meet its obligations to its 1.4 million members. The COA also uncovered irregularities in payments to certain GSIS officers and employees, who were paid 200 percent more than the lawful rate for retirement pensions, "as well as pile-ups of contingent asset deficit cases."

"Retirement benefits paid to GSIS officers and employees who availed of the Employees Loyalty Incentive Plan (ELIP) was higher by 200 percent of what was granted to the members under the existing retirement laws, aside from the monthly pension that the GSIS retiree will be receiving after five years, which ranges from a low of P12,400 to as high as P94,678," according to the COA audit.

The COA suggested that the officers and employees in question should be made to refund the overpayments.

The COA also reported that the past due rate of GSIS' business loans was a staggering 97 percent.

"Of the total outstanding business loans maintained in the GSIS Home Office with an aggregate value of P3.22 billion as of Dec. 31, 2001, P3.114 billion was considered past due," reported the COA. "The total past due loans is 16.9 percent of the total housing loans outstanding, the collectability of which was doubtful."

The COA recommended that the GSIS pursue collection strategies to nurse back the accounts into current status.

The GSIS stopped payments on its Employees Compensation Claims to its members. But it denied the stoppage saying GSIS just "limited disbursements to save the other funds of the institution from incurring further costs."

"The GSIS Contingent Asset-Deficit cases account in 2001 shot up 32 percent by almost P100 million, from P311 million in 2000," the COA reported.

"In most cases, the arrears of the members in premium are more than the cash surrender value of their policies. It is impossible to collect these arrears anymore," the COA acknowledged.

It concluded:

"The continuing upward trend of the deficiency between the actual/financial reserve set up and actuarial reserve requirements of the Social Insurance Fund for the past 11 years cast doubt on the ability of the GSIS to meet its obligations in the future as mandated by its charter. As of Dec. 31, 2001, said deficiency amounted to P25.167 billion."

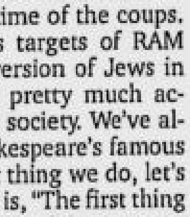
* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila forum are Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Philippine Tourism Authority chief Nixon Cua and officials of tourism's private sector.

Reminder to all Philets and Artlets alumni: Don't forget the reunion and election of officers of Philets Foundation starting at 7 p.m. tomorrow night at the Quezon City Sports Club on Rodriguez Avenue.

'The end of politics'

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

IT'S a phrase I keep hearing these days: "ending politics," "stopping politics," "declaring a truce on politics," "putting politics aside" or "on hold."

That's what people have been saying since GMA said she wasn't running in 2004. The people who have formed groups in particular to help the President carry out her program of reform have been harping on the point. Now that politics has been laid aside, they say, we may all rally around the President, happy in the thought that we are not helping advance a political agenda but are only working to benefit the common good.

There is one sense in which these phrases do make sense, which is the idiomatic one. The sense when we say, "I don't read the papers anymore, *bwisit na 'ko sa pulitika* (I'm fed up with politics)." I heard that phrase repeatedly during Erap's time and after, when the papers were full of horrendous news about the country, not least of them stories about corruption and the efforts of public officials, including judges, to hide them. "I'd rather read a book," people said, or more commonly, since book-reading has been on the wane anyway with or without the bad news, "I'd rather see a movie."

I can't say I blame them. Your first instinct when assailed by pain is to avoid it, or want to get rid of it. I myself have replied when asked why I write about literature, music and even sports, "*Nakakasawa rin naman ang pulitika* (I get tired of politics too)." That is quite apart from the fact that I love literature, music and on occasion, sports.

We all understand that sense instinctively. But that sense also has its pitfalls. For it points to several assumptions about politics that are not true at all, or true only in part. Chief of them is that politics is the exclusive province of politicians. Second of them, which follows from our observations of the behavior of politicians, is that politics is the acquisition of power for personal or selfish ends. Third of them, which follows from the second, is that the means to acquiring power are lies and subterfuge, plots and machinations, backstabbing and muckraking. Fourth of them is that the other branches of government, the executive and judiciary, are not exempt from it, and so engage in politics as well. All in all, politics is an unsavory thing altogether.

That is clearly the sense in which the Bangon Pilipino Movement means politics, which is why they have directed their unfriendly gaze at the politicians. But they are by no means the first to do so. That has happened time and time again, not least during the time of the coups. Lest we forget, the express targets of RAM were the politicians, their version of Jews in Nazi Germany, whom they pretty much accused of causing every ill in society. We've always had a variation of Shakespeare's famous line in "Henry VI," "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," and that is, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the politicians." In our case, that line, to go by some of the sentiments of the coup plotters of yore, is not always meant metaphorically.

Raul Gonzalez shows in part what's wrong with this when he accuses Mike Velarde of utter hypocrisy. Gonzalez though, is wrong to say that Velarde insults politicians, particularly congressmen. No one does that better than politicians themselves, particularly congressmen who often like to act like the mob in "Julius Caesar," as when they ganged up to protect Mark Jimenez from extradition. But he is right to say that Velarde should be the last person to complain about politicians. He's one himself.

That's true not just of the past or the present. Velarde didn't go into politics only when he endorsed Erap several years ago. He went into politics long before and has remained there long after, with his effort to influence the course of national affairs as the head of a powerful religious group. So has Eraño Manalo, as head of yet another powerful religious group, particularly with the Iglesia ni Cristo's propensity for block-voting.

Bangon Pilipino's effort to pressure public officials to live up to their duties, or to the group's expectations, which may not always be one and the same, is political. So is civil society's call for the nation to rally around the President. So is the President's decision not to run for 2004. So are all the calls for this country to unite and "stop politics."

You can no more stop politics than you can stop yourself from breathing. Politics is integral to human existence. Or to social existence, which is what human existence has been since the dawn of time. Politics is the way we organize power to achieve certain ends. The point is not to stop it, it is to broaden the base of the people who wield power so that it may redound to the common good. There is a difference between organizing power for selfish or sectarian ends and organizing power for broader or collective ends. The first, which we may refer to as "politicking," we truly ought to fight and oppose. The second, which is really what politics is, we ought to seize and direct to useful ends.

We do not have to look far to see an example of the second. Edsa I and Edsa II were extremely political acts. There is no more political act than bringing a tyranny down, but it is one that produces the most salutary results. Why should anyone want to put an end to this politics? Why should anyone get tired or fed up with this politics? In fact, the truly unfortunate thing is that we do get tired and fed up with this politics, settling back smugly into indifference and apathy after a forceful expression of collective will, falling back willy-nilly into mediocrity after rising to heights of heroism.

But that is yet another story.

* * *

ERRATUM: Mitchiko Yamamoto, the scriptwriter of the movie "Magnifico," was wrongly identified as a young man in Conrad de Quiros' column yesterday. She is a lady. Our regrets.—Ed.

A basis for war

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT George W. Bush's State of the Union speech last Tuesday signaled a countdown on war with Iraq without a "zero hour," thereby keeping both US allies and Iraq guessing on when the US will launch a strike—with or without United Nations Security Council authorization.

The speech left many observers, including those from the West and the Middle East, with the impression that a US stampede to war is irreversible. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, a US ally, prepared his country for what he called an inevitable conflict. "The strike is coming, coming unless Iraq abides by the resolution of the international legitimacy and unless it stops putting obstacles in front of international inspectors." Another Arab official said "only a miracle" could avert war.

And Richard Holdbrooke, the United Nations mediator in the Kosovo confict, said: "The United States does not need a second resolution to go to war, and I don't think they will go for a second resolution. But what the president must do is to make the case for war effectively."

And going to war without a second UN resolution is the direction Bush's speech pointed to. US diplomats have stepped up the campaign to forge a new coalition of European allies to counter the coalition led by France and Germany, which have strongly opposed military action without a new council resolution. Both France and Germany want more time for UN inspectors to search for hidden programs and facilities for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Bush said that while the US "will consult, let there be no misunderstanding: if Saddam Hussein does not fully disarm for the safety of our people, and for the peace of the world, we will lead a coalition to disarm him. All free nations have a stake in preventing sudden and catastrophic attacks, and we're asking them to join us, and many are doing so. Yet the course of this nation does not depend on the decision of others."

There is nothing better that Bush would like very much than getting the consensus, especially European, which backed international military action on Afghanistan following the Sept. 11 strike on the US. But this solidarity has fractured and weakened. Bush now seeks a "coalition of the willing" to counter the "coalition of the unwilling" represented by France, Germany and Russia, the leading European powers. The new thrust of US coalition building is being pursued at the risk of breaking the transatlantic alliance and driving a deep fissure in the European Union.

The US has lined up what it calls the "new Europe" behind its belligerent policy on Iraq composed of Britain, the most elegant articulator of Bush's war policy which degenerates into vulgarity when Bush expresses it, Italy, Spain, Greece and Poland. Italy and Spain have conservative governments, and Poland, a leading candidate for admission into the EU with its enlargement in 2004, is a pro-American state in central Europe. This alliance of the "willing" is the US answer to what Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld mockingly described as the "old Europe," an axis led by France and Germany, in opposing Bush's unswerving drive toward war.

US military planners and most Western military strategic think tanks predict a quick war lasting for only a few weeks, given the overwhelming military and technological superiority of US military might, but this scenario has glossed over the possibilities of the war turning into a nasty conflict in which biological and chemical weapons are used by both sides, and street combat, in case Saddam's troops engage invading forces street-fighting in population centers. Strategic scenarios also ignore evidence that wars tend to foster unexpected and unwanted consequences, as is the case with World War I, in which the European powers thought could be contained after the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in Sarajevo, Bosnia, in the summer of 1914 and with the case of the Vietnam War.

After Bush's speech, the world was dancing closer to the edge of war and the US is brushing aside diplomatic solutions, after the US administration has formed the conviction that Iraq will not disarm. Whether the US can enlarge its "coalition of the willing" and cover the military strike with the legitimacy of a new council resolution will depend upon new evidence to be introduced by Secretary of State Colin Powell at the Feb. 5 meeting of the council. The US has not presented a strong case for military action that can swing skeptics all over the world to the position of attacking Iraq. Although UN arms inspectors have reported to the council that Iraq has not been cooperating fully with the UN resolution requiring Iraq's disarmament, and have admitted they have not found the "smoking gun," the US is attempting to fill this gap with its own evidence it has not shared with its allies and UN inspectors.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia, who is seeking more time for inspection, said that "If Iraq resists these inspections, if they create problems for the inspectors, I do not rule out that Russia may change its position," including a tougher UN resolution on Iraq. But a Russian official also said that, "Give us something—give us a basis."

This basis for war is what most of the US opponents is seeking.

No one is certain whether Powell will present evidence other than that disclosed by previous UN reports or that uncovered by UN inspectors. He has to establish, for example, that al-Qaida terrorists which attacked the US on Sept. 11 had links with Iraq.

President Bush said, "Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications and statements by people now in custody, reveal that Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of al-Qaida." But Prime Minister Tony Blair contradicted this. Responding to questions in the House of Commons, Blair said that, "We do not know of links between al-Qaida and Iraq. We cannot be sure of the exact extent of those links." Blair was even less certain about the link of Iraq to the Sept. 11 attack.

A case for the 'old' media

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EXCERPTS from a talk delivered at the Philippine Youth Conference yesterday at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, University of Santo Tomas.

I COME to this event as a representative of—not the older generation, though I may be that, too—but of the so-called "old" media, the oldest of them all, in fact.

The print medium is the oldest of the news and entertainment media, that include film, radio and television in that order.

In contrast to these forms of "old" media, that rely on mediators, such as publishers, editors and reporters, to "set the standards, ideals and aims of the masses," the "new" media allow consumers of information and even entertainment access to these commodities with no need of mediation or interpretation. Texting, e-mail, on-line chatting and the Internet allow people to communicate with each other directly, and to share information with a large number of people without anyone interfering in the process. As my friend Jim Paredes remarks: "With texting, anyone can be a broadcaster!"

No one has embraced the "new" media with as much enthusiasm, devotion, and may I say consuming passion as the youth. Quite apart from young people's higher comfort level with the technology, the youth have embraced the freedom that technology provides, usually under the protective mantle of anonymity. Yet ironically, and this is judging from my experience with my own children, young people also value the ability the technology allows to establish instant communities, virtual families linked by common interests and passions, bridging national boundaries and geographical borders.

* * *

AND yet what makes the "new" information technology so accessible and comfortable is also what makes a lot of it unreliable and maybe even dangerous. Don't get me wrong. As a print journalist, I have used a lot of material from the new media, mainly through e-mail and the Internet. The technology has allowed me to check a fact or a piece of information in the middle of rushing a column, when before I would have had to visit the library or scour my bookshelves for a written reference.

But while accessing content from the new media, I still rely on old instincts to screen data, information, interpretation, analysis and prescriptions. Much of this work of sifting through content, as with all judicious reporting, relies on the quality of the source. For information on scientific developments, I would more often than not search for the websites of reputable universities and colleges, research institutions and international bodies. Then, too, e-groups have allowed me to exchange information with networks of people. I can say now that the e-groups to which I belong have been invaluable in expanding my sources of information and analysis, me with the ability to view an issue or controversy from different points-of-view.

But you don't even have to have a journalist's training to sift chaff from grain in the wide, wide Web. Many times, you need only use your common sense. I tend to bypass any site that offers too flaky or too easy analysis. Sometimes, the mere appearance of a web page can be a dead giveaway, a sloppy, amateurish presentation sends alarm bells about the reliability of the information it contains.

* * *

WHEN I first gained access to the Internet, I couldn't wait to take part in chatting, excited at the thought of instant "real-time" communication with a whole new community of strangers. But I didn't last an hour in the first chat room I visited. I was appalled, first of all, by the viciousness of the attacks and counter-attacks, and second, by the atrocious grammar employed.

Apparently, anonymity not only allows people to drop any semblance of civility in discourse, it's also an excuse to eschew fidelity to all rules of language altogether. So that makes me an old fuddy-duddy. Bite me. There must be a reason why most people belong to the audience "side," and why men and women who wish to work on the other side need to undergo training, orientation and rack up experience and competence points before they're allowed to inflict themselves on the public.

* * *

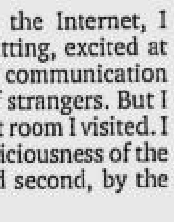
LET me make a case, then, for the "old" media, the old reliables that need mediators to sort through the mass of data and information that's generated every minute, every hour of every day, select the most important, significant and interesting, and present these in a manner that is compelling and entertaining.

With the broadcast media, and especially with print, we are at least assured that people who had trained for the job for most of their lives are there, taking the pulse of the public and reporting it back to them. There's a reason desk editors, that group of mostly anonymous individuals who wade through a day's news reports and evaluate them for news value, are called "gate keepers." The analogy is appropriate. Even trained reporters may come up with duds and outright mistakes. It's up to the editors to weed out the unworthy, the unreliable and even the unreadable. And it's their responsibility to make sure that every story that does see print has been verified, cleaned up and rewritten, if necessary, to make sure the reader appreciates its relevance to his or her life.

Of course, print and broadcast journalists can err, too. And often. And part of your work as consumers of media is to keep them—us—on our toes. Feedback is not only satisfying to the ego of the journalist, it is necessary in the rightful exercise of our own craft and social responsibility. But that's something we can talk about at some later date and at some other occasion.

Monuments

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST Sunday my attention was called to a TV talk show where a feng shui expert was recommending some changes in our monuments and landmarks. He suggested that the monument in front of Malacañang be removed or modified because it shows a bird on a skewer. Actually, Napoleon Abueva's concept for Freedom Park is a sculpture of stone and bronze depicting a dove of peace flying around flames of victory, or something to that effect. While Abueva wanted to express something lofty and inspiring, the feng shui expert saw a pigeon barbecue. Perhaps there is a loose connection somewhere. Then there was the suggestion that we modify Rizal Park. Our national hero stands facing Manila Bay, but his view is blocked by the Quirino grandstand. Therefore, the nation's good luck and prosperity are also blocked by the grandstand. He suggested transferring the Rizal monument elsewhere, but then Rizal was shot in that park. If we cannot move the monument, the more drastic solution would be to tear down the grandstand. Watching this made me see red in the eyes of the National Historical Institute and the Heritage Conservation Society.

Speaking of Rizal monuments, the most recent one was inaugurated by Speaker Jose de Venecia and Chinese officials in Xiamen, southern China last Thursday. A simple floral offering was the conclusion to all the efforts of the energetic Manuel Chua who traced Rizal's Chinese ancestry to a town called Sionque in Fujian province. The monument is a replica of the one in Manila and stands on a five-hectare lot that used to be a rice paddy. What the Filipino delegation found intriguing was that the monument had a Rizal with Chinese features. In the same way that the feng shui master misinterpreted Abueva's Freedom Park monument, the Filipinos in China looked at Rizal and wondered why he was angry. Isn't Rizal calm and peaceful, a direct opposite of Bonifacio who is always depicted screaming?

I had to explain that Rizal wasn't mad at us or anyone in Xiamen. Our Rizal was simply given the face of a Red Guard. If you are familiar with Chinese posters showing Chairman Mao leading his people to progress, you will realize that those faces are not expressions of hatred and defiance but an inspiration to youth. We make Rizal in our image and likeness, thus the Chinese artisans who made the monument in Fujian province made Rizal in their image.

While we are on the topic of monuments, we are happy that the controversy over the Andres Bonifacio monument in Caloocan is now over. Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo has heeded the declaration of the monument as a historic landmark by the National Historical Institute and shelved his plans to move it to Tala in north Caloocan. The monument's site has been sanctified by long usage and one cannot imagine telling a taxi driver you are going to "Monumento" if the Bonifacio monument is not there anymore. Perhaps it would be good for us to remember what Guillermo Tolentino wanted to express in this three-dimensional work that he once described as "a patriotic song without words."

Tolentino asserted that a work of art must not only be factual but allegorical as well. One of the country's leading guitarists, Tolentino explained the work in musical terms. His symbolic orchestration begins and ends with: "The principal group with Andres Bonifacio as the central figure. Behind him is Emilio Jacinto which is the action for the allegretto; then you have on one side the mobilization (of the Filipinos) which is the allegro. One side of the monument (showing Katipuneros signing their oath with blood) represents initiation and brotherhood which is the andante. The other figures show torture (which can be seen as the) adagio and finally on the opposite end of the principal group you have the martyred priests (Gomburza) to represent death or largo."

The monument's main feature is a 45-foot granite obelisk in five parts representing the five letters in the Katipunan acronym KKKAnB or Kataastaasan Kagalanggalang na Katipunan nang manga Anak nang Bayan topped by a figure of the "Winged Victory." All these figures rest on an octagonal base that represents the first eight provinces placed under martial law in 1896 at the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution against Spain. This octagon can also allude to the eight rays of the Katipunan and the present Philippine flag. The base rises three steps to signify the three centuries that the Philippines was under Spain.

Reflecting pools on the side of the monument alludes to water and the Filipino temper as expressed by Rizal in "El Filibusterismo," "…Water is mild and can be drunk, but it dilutes wine and beer, extinguishes fire; heated, it becomes steam, and ruffled it is the ocean; once it destroyed mankind and made the earth tremble to its foundations." There is much symbolism in the monument that is lost to us today. We also forget that Tolentino got first-hand personal information on the Supremo by interviewing his sister Espiridiona and making studies of her head as a basis for that in the monument. So much effort put on a monument that looks so simple today. Looking at the Bonifacio monument in Caloocan makes us appreciate not only a work of art and genius but reminds us of history as well.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The widow's secret

HIGH BLOOD

Mary Vidal

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

WHEN my friend Doreen Fernandez died last June, one of her best friends said: "She got her wish. She's always wanted to join Wili." Doreen had been a widow for four years when she died. While not privy to Doreen's wish, I had this quick thought when I heard of her death: "No more lonely nights."

What we widows never say and what Doreen understood, I now wish to say: Death has become a friend ever since my husband died. I have seen how death came gently for him. I have seen how courageously he embraced death even as he said to us how much he loved us and, to me, how happy I had made him. As a kindly sister, death came for him and led him to the next life, face to face with God, as our faith tells us.

In the last 24 months since my husband died, I have longed to die, too. I wanted so much to see him, speak to him and embrace him. Death is the only way I could be with him. For this I apologize to Jesus. In dying, I should wish to see Jesus first and foremost. But I feel that I wish to see my husband much more strongly.

I am truly sorry for my reversed longing. It is Jesus whom I should wish to see. But Jesus understands widows so well. In the Gospel, I see how partial He was to widows. He resurrected the son of the widow of Naim. He praised the widow who dropped a mite into the temple box. He loved His mother who was a widow. Allow me this one longing to see once again and for always the man with whom I am one.

The week after my husband died two years ago, my friend Vita and I were standing under a mango tree in our farm. It was mid-afternoon, the sun seeking us even in the shade. My face was fully exposed. Vita said: "You look so sad. Please do not die, too."

Vita is melodramatic; she is from Sicily. She blurted: "My father died four weeks after my mother. He was not sick of anything. He just curled up on his bed, got pneumonia and died." I laughed. I assured Vita that I was sad, true, but not sentimental nor suicidal.

My husband did not like being alone. Or to be accurate, he wanted me to be with him. He said to me as he was dying: "Stay with me. Never leave me." That was how he was. He never liked being home if I was not home with him. He wanted me to be with him at parties, at weddings, at reunions. He refused to travel without me. Once he went to New York by himself but after two days he asked me to follow.

Yet he was a dynamic man, a corporate big shot, COO, then CEO and country chair of a multinational company at the time of his death. He did not want me to be with him when he was in the office, being Mr. Big. But at all other times, he wanted me to be with him. He told me stories, bounced off his ideas on me, shared with me his joys and triumphs, his happiness. He told me that I was his best friend. Would he not then want me to pray that I be where he is right now?

I want to die as I know some other widows secretly wish, too—because I want to reclaim my other half. It is not easy being ripped open, one side of the heart constantly exposed to every passing wind, rain and dust. I took my marriage vows to heart. While I know that I am no longer bound to him legally or canonically, love accepts no such ending. Love goes on. On his deathbed, my husband said: "As I am close to you now, so much closer will I be to you when I go."

I hold him to that. My faith in Jesus tells me that I could hold my husband to that promise. When I pray, I often ask Jesus if I could just see my husband one more time. My prayer is usually heard. I have sightings of my husband right within my family. The way one son walks and wears his hair, the way another son is full of ideas, the way my youngest son is so bright and funny, the way my daughter is such an adept corporate person: I see my husband in each one of them.

Yesterday at a hidden nook of the farm, I saw my husband smiling and heard him chuckling—in a burst of orchids high up on the trunk of a palm tree. He had tied that orchid plant four years ago such as it was, just a stalk with six leaves and four short roots. He tied many other stalks to many other trees in our farm. As far as I know only this one bloomed—large peach-colored flowers with magenta stripes. As resplendent as the flowers are the roots, so many now, some sticking out to the air, some gripping the trunk of the palm tree. None of the gardeners had tended this orchid, which was tucked way too high, the palm having grown so tall.

Magnificent flowers blooming on their own speak to me of faith, my husband's faith when he planted them, the faith he urges me to have now. It is said that in heaven, we do not need faith nor hope, because we see God face to face in truth. All we have in heaven is love because God is Love. And what binds me to my husband now is love. Every sighting affirms a love as it was and as it is.

Suppose that my husband went to work in Geneva, wouldn't I want to join him? Or if he chose to go back to Davao where he spent his childhood, wouldn't I want to go to Davao, too? Or if he left Laguna, where I now live, to live in Tagaytay, wouldn't I live there, too?

Since my husband now lives in heaven, I want to live with him there, too. But I need to get on a vehicle to reach him. Death is the means of transit, the vehicle, if you wish, to get to heaven. Do you now see why I want to die, too? My friend Doreen got her wish after only four years. While I await God's infinitely wise and loving will for me, I hold on to what my husband said 24 months ago as he bade me farewell: "Never show any fear of dying."

Mary Vidal is now in her 60s and runs an inn in Laguna.

THEY SAID

Always No. 1

"I have always been No. 1 in Cebu."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo, after drawing a prolonged applause when she walked into the Cebu cathedral to serve as principal sponsor at a wedding

First, good government

"We do not need constitutional amendments right now. What we need is good and effective governance."

—Sen. Francis Pangilinan, opposing moves to change the Constitution

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Chinese poachers should be prosecuted

ONCE again, our government and nation are being put to a test. Once again there are diplomatic moves to secure the release of 38 Chinese poachers arrested off northern Palawan last year. Their lawyer has filed a motion to quash charges filed against them on the rather flimsy contention that the Palawan RTC has no jurisdiction. The World Wide Fide for Nature (WWF) contends that no release should be contemplated before these criminals are made to face the full force of the law.

Last summer, 122 Chinese poachers were arrested within Tubbataha Reef. Biological monitoring by recognized local and international scientists clearly confirm that Tubbataha is one of our most effectively protected sites. This is a result of years of collaborative efforts from a variety of stakeholders including the provincial and local governments of Palawan, NGOs, scientific and academic institutions, donor agencies and national government agencies such as the Navy and the Coast Guard. It is precisely because of these efforts that those 122 Chinese poachers were arrested there last year and charged in Palawan courts.

In spite of Tubbataha's very special status, our government caved in. In last year's case, the Chinese Embassy intervened and successfully got the Department of Foreign Affairs and some low-ranking officials of the Department of Justice to take their side. Although the poachers were eventually released, they were required to observe legal processes, plead guilty and pay a fine. An embarrassing precedent was set, but the Chinese were warned that all future incidents would be dealt with much more severely. We drew a line in the sand. Well, here it is.

Thirty-eight more Chinese poachers were arrested late last year off northern Palawan. Their hold was full of live fish. They also had cyanide. Although multisectoral vigilance now allows us to arrest criminals like them, that is not enough. Arrests must lead to charges. Charges must lead to prosecution. Prosecution must be taken all the way to conviction. Poachers must be made to pay the full fines stipulated by law or serve their sentences. The WWF and INQUIRER have created the Environmental Fund for Legal Action (Eflac) precisely to address the need to establish legal precedents and develop a stronger base for sustained conservation activity.

Unfortunately, the situation is not so simple. Some branches of the national government are working at cross-purposes with their own colleagues in the public service and all these multisectoral efforts. Through the years, officials of the DFA have supported the release of foreign environmental criminals as "gestures of goodwill." Although senior officials of the DOJ have, in the past, made moves to uphold the rule of law, these positions, which are dramatized over national media, are not always followed by fiscals on the front lines. This lack of cohesion and consistency weakens both our laws and the credibility of national government agencies.

As a nation, let us be consistent. We have made international treaty commitments. Let us stand by them. Public servants have sworn to uphold the laws of the land, this is the least voters and taxpayers expect. Cyanide is an illegal substance for fishing, whether in Tubbataha, or in any other coastal area. This must apply to everyone, anywhere. Illegal fishermen, whether Filipino or foreign, should be arrested and made to face the bar of justice. We may have different opinions, but we all follow one law.

—JOSE MA. LORENZO TAN,
president, World Wide Fund for
Nature (WWF) Philippines,
69 Masikap Ext. cor.
Marunong St.,
Diliman, Quezon City

BID detainee facing multiple rape raps

I WOULD like to thank Recah Trinidad for giving our answer (Re: Case of Perry McNeely) space in his column. I very much appreciate his fairness and kind tolerance in treating those who disagree with the views in his column.

I would like to reiterate that the issue of McNeely's continued detention is no longer in our hands but with the courts where he is facing multiple criminal cases for rape. His request for temporary liberty could not be granted because of his pending criminal cases that we are constrained from implementing his deportation.

—ANDREA D. DOMINGO,
commissioner,
Bureau of Immigration,
Magallanes Drive,
Intramuros, Manila

One more reason to cry

FOR 10 days every Christmas season, as early as 3 a.m. until high noon, a long line of women can be seen along FB Harrison Avenue in Pasay City. Housewives and grandmothers by the thousands line up to receive free two kilos of rice from the benevolent ministers of a Chinese temple located in the area.

In comparison, some of our officials are busy jawing about Charter change even though different sectors want less politics in national governance. Our present Constitution was drafted and ratified at the cost of P260 million. We can only estimate that an amount we can ill afford will be spent to satisfy the current clamor of the Cha-cha advocates.

Now, I really want to cry.

—JAMES D. FRANCISCO,
CFD, 9/F PNB Financial Center,
President Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City

Islam a religion of peace

I FULLY agree with the reaction of Maisara C. Dandamun-Latiph last Jan. 25 to the statement of one Muslim who was quoted as saying: "One should never draw his gun because he would not hesitate to shoot. This is a part of Islamic culture."

No wonder Islam is so poorly understood in this part of the world. I remember the words of a learned Muslim, Prof. Hammudah Abdalati, who said in one of his books:

"The true Muslim can contribute most effectively to the realization of responsible citizenship and universal peace, mutual understanding and human brotherhood, freedom of conscience and maintenance of human dignity. All these principles are part and parcel of Islam. If a Muslim, who is supposed to stand for these principles, is lost or grows indifferent, it means that humanity at large will be deprived of his valuable contributions."

Truly the statement of Prof. Taha Basman, if he was correctly quoted, is not only reckless but grossly unfair and certainly out of taste. It has no basis at all and is irreconcilable with the true meaning of Islam, for Islam is a religion of peace: its meaning is peace, one of God's names is peace, the daily greetings of Muslims and angels are peace, paradise is the house of peace and the adjective "Muslim" means peaceful. Peace is the nature, the meaning, the emblem and the objective of Islam.

I therefore join the Muslim lady's appeal to our fellow Muslims to be more prudent and circumspect when making references to Islam. Let us not give reasons for the misinformed to remain hostile to Islam.

I would also appeal to whoever is aggrieved by any person identified as a Muslim not to think that what the person did, good or bad, has something to do with Islam, which is a religion. Let us not associate the acts of a person with his religion or group identity.

While I agree also with Ramon Tulfo that one must respect one's culture and religion to maintain a harmonious relationship, I am offended by his continued dangerous stereotyping of Muslims in general. In fact, respect must exist not only between people of different faiths but among people of the same religious sect. And to make our dealings better, we must likewise recognize our differences. As Randy David said in one of his columns: "History made us different from each other, and today we continue to fight over how we should live together."

Like any true Muslim, I strongly condemn the senseless and brutal killing of Jay Llamas and sincerely hope that the perpetrator will be apprehended immediately to answer for his wrongful and dastardly act.

—MOHAMMAD THANI SHAKIRE DATUIMAM
0023 Mango St., New Pag-asa,
Bara-as, Iligan City

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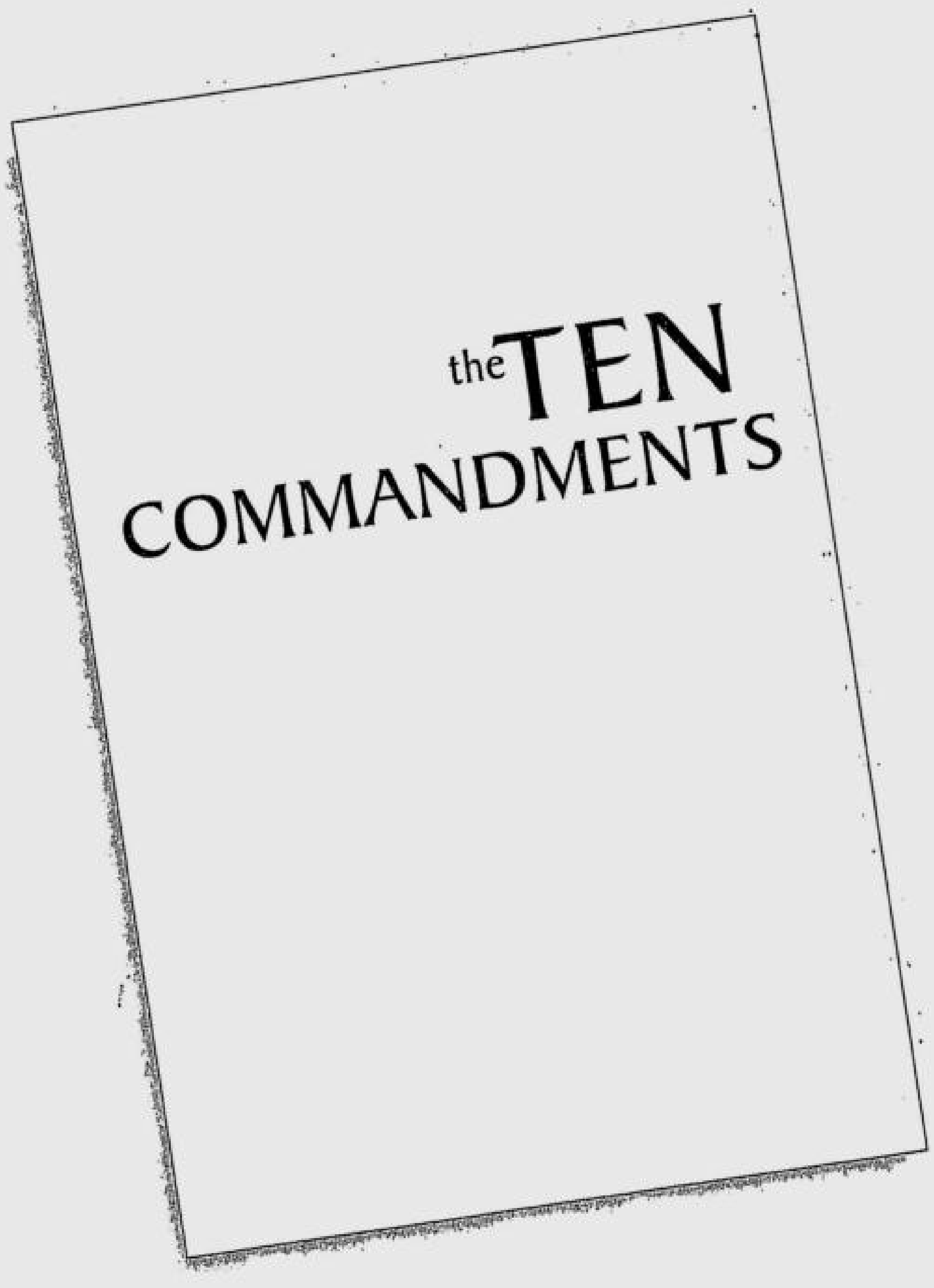

Some claim that the 10 commandments have been replaced by 2 commands, namely *"to love God,"* and *"to love thy neighbor."*

Others say that since it is through grace that we are saved, the laws are now obsolete.

But Jesus said "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will by any means disappear from the Law until all is fulfilled. (Mt 5:17-18)

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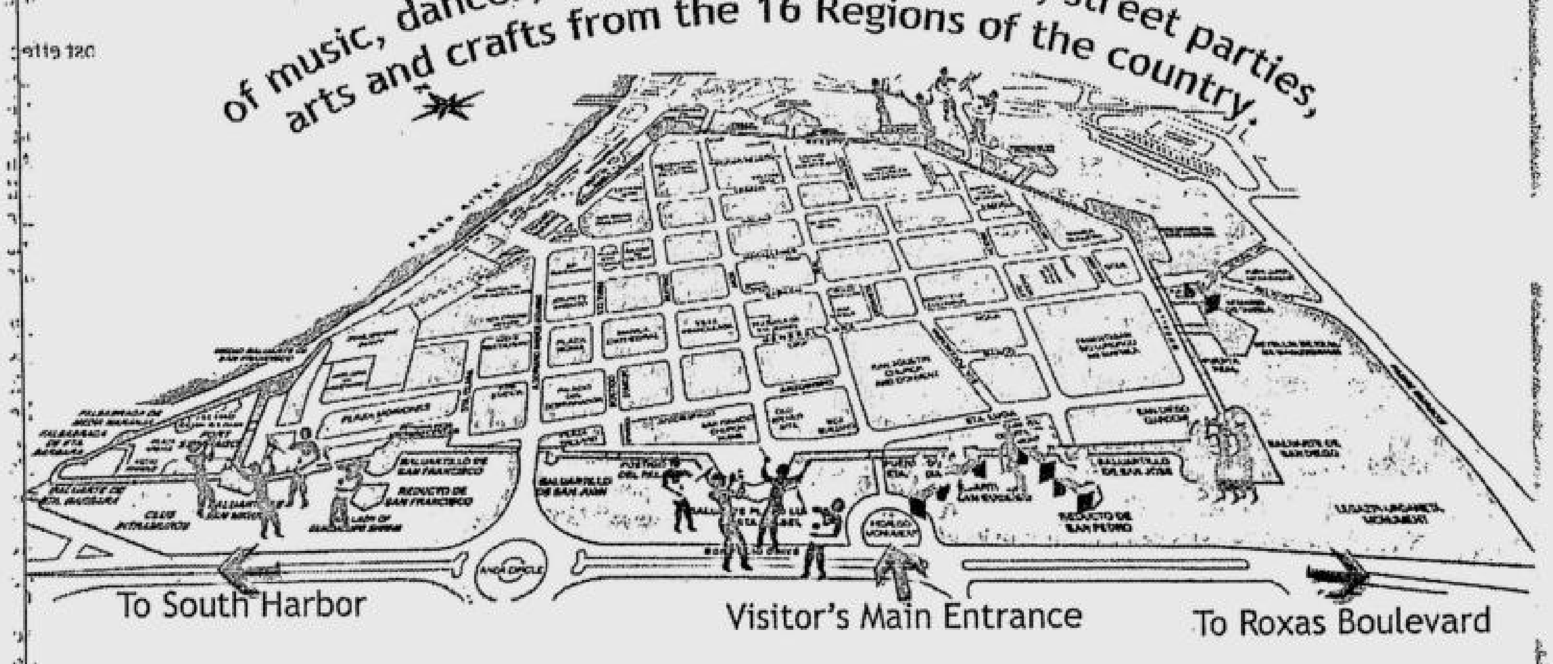

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MARCH 18-30	Region I (The Ilocos) Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan
APRIL 2-30	Region X (Northern Mindanao) Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte
MAY 6-31	Region XII (Central Mindanao) North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, Sarangani and Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi
JUNE 3 - 29	National Capital Region (NCR) Metro Manila
SEPTEMBER 2-14	Region V (Bicol) Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon
SEPTEMBER 16-28	Region VIII (Eastern Visayas) Biliran, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Southern Leyte
OCTOBER 1-15	Region VI (Western Visayas) Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occidental
OCTOBER 17-29	Region VII (Central Visayas) Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor
NOVEMBER 4-16	Region XI (Southern Mindanao) Compostela Valley, Davao, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental
NOVEMBER 18-30	Region IX (Western Mindanao) Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Sibugay Province and Region XIII (Caraga) Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Big challenges in summer war, says US military

KUWAIT CITY—Sandstorms, dust and broiling heat of up to 48 degrees Celsius could complicate US military operations in Iraq if allowing UN weapons inspectors more time and delays in troop movements push the attack into late spring.

The US military says technological advances have made it easier to fight in any weather. But sand and dust clog engines and air filters and grind down helicopter blades. Heat forces troops to drink copious amounts of water.

A summer war wouldn't be impossible to fight, officials said, but it would pose huge challenges.

"We are accustomed to training in extreme weather conditions," said US military spokesperson Marine Capt. David Romley, adding that his own unit trained in the California desert where temperatures often top 49 Celsius.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday, US President George W. Bush vowed to use the "full force and might of the US military" if necessary to disarm Iraq—a possible sign that war is not far off.

Many world leaders are appealing for more time to let UN weapons inspectors verify whether Saddam Hussein still has weapons of mass destruction.

Though tens of thousands of US, British and other nations' troops are in the Gulf region or en route here, US officials privately say the ground force necessary for a strike on Iraq will not be fully in place for another several weeks.

But the clock is ticking. Temperatures in February and March are still mild, but starting in late spring, the deserts of Iraq and Kuwait—a key launching pad for any future attack—become inhospitably hot. By June temperatures can often top 48 degrees Celsius.

From April to early June, dry dusty winds with gusts up to 80 kph are common. They are followed by yet another hot wind, the "shamal," which sweeps from the north and northwest from mid-June to mid-September.

Dust storms stirred up by these winds can rise to height of several thousand meters.

Blowing dust and sand in the summer months take a heavy toll on vehicles and aircraft—and can block the use of laser-guided weapons and gun sights.

The danger of exhaustion and dehydration among troops intensifies. Suits worn by soldiers to protect against chemical attacks are cumbersome and can slow down operations.

Yet the suits are a lot lighter now than they were during the first Gulf War 12 years ago.

"It's just another obstacle to overcome, just like mud or rain," Romley said.

Technical improvements mean air filters are less likely to get clogged than they were a decade ago. Distortion in optical systems, including binoculars and sighting optics on tanks, by surface heat waves is less of a problem than a few years ago.

Officials have already made plans to ship in large quantities of drinking water to the Gulf. In the summer, each soldier must drink 0.95 to 1.18 liters per hour, said Col. Rick Thomas, the chief spokesperson for US troops in Kuwait.

"If so directed, we can certainly fight in summer," Thomas told The Associated Press.

The US military employs night-vision technology far superior to Iraq's, experts say, meaning American forces can do much of their fighting at night, when it's cooler. In the run-up to a possible war, a portion of each training drill in the Kuwaiti desert takes place at night. *AP*

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Could USA's worst enemies be united?

By Paul Haven

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—It's a nightmare scenario: Al-Qaida terrorists, funded by Osama bin Laden's millions and with access to Saddam Hussein's hidden stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, unleash carnage that dwarfs even the fury of the Sept. 11 attacks.

In making his case for possible war with Iraq, US President George W. Bush warned such a day might come if America fails to act, but there is no known evidence of a link between Washington's chief villains.

The two men—one married to religious extremism, the other a calculating secularist—would make strange bedfellows, agreeing perhaps only on their hatred for the United States.

"Ideologically and logically, they cannot work together," Gen. Hamid Gul, the former chief of Pakistan's spy agency InterServices Intelligence, told The Associated Press. "Bin Laden and his men considered Saddam the killer of hundreds of Islamic militants," a reference to Saddam's relentless crackdowns on domestic political rivals, including Kurds and Shiites.

Pakistan, a longtime supporter of the hardline Taliban regime in Afghanistan, has a long history of monitoring bin Laden's comings and goings. Many al-Qaida fighters, including perhaps bin Laden himself, are believed to have fled into the mountainous border region between the two countries after the US-led war drove the Taliban from power in late 2001.

In his nationally-televised State of the Union address Tuesday, Bush used the alleged link between Saddam and al-Qaida as a major argument in his push for a tough stance on Iraq.

"Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications and statements by people now in custody reveal that Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of al-Qaida," Bush said.

"Imagine those 19 hijackers with other weapons and other plans—this time armed by Saddam. It would take one vial, one canister, one crate slipped into this country to bring a day of horror like none we have ever known," he added.

The president offered no new evidence, but said US Secretary of State Colin Powell would present the US case to the United Nations next week.

Bush's comments were dismissed by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

"I absolutely deny that," Aziz told the British Broadcasting Corp. "Historically speaking, everybody in the region, everybody in the world knows Iraq has no connection with al-Qaida. We are quite different people—different in ideology, different in practice."

Certainly, an alliance between Saddam and bin Laden would have seemed impossible before Sept. 11. *AP*

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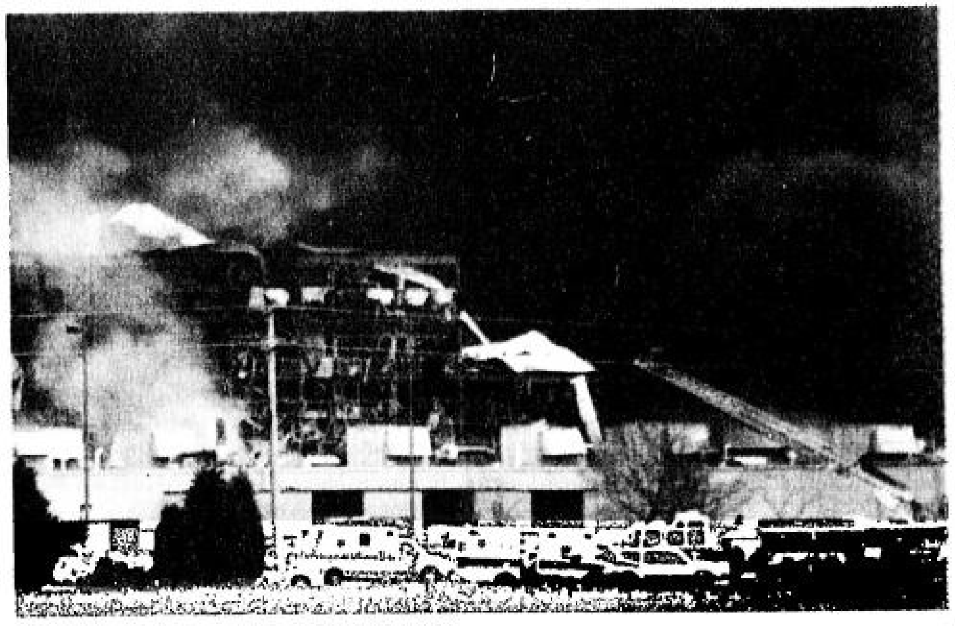

NORTH CAROLINA EXPLOSION REUTERS
Emergency personnel work to put out a fire that was caused by an explosion that took place at the West Pharmaceutical plant in Kinston, North Carolina on Jan. 29. Two workers were confirmed dead, several were missing and dozens were injured after the blast.

Alleged Thai comment sparks Cambodia riots

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—Military planes evacuated hundreds of Thais from Cambodia Thursday, a day after demonstrators tried to burn down their embassy and roving gangs attacked Thai-owned businesses. One Thai man was missing and is feared dead, officials said.

The riots were sparked after a Thai TV star allegedly said Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat temple was stolen from Thailand. The actress, Suwanan Kongying, denied making any such comment.

The unrest triggered the worst diplomatic crisis between the Southeast Asian neighbors in decades, and Cambodia's chief government spokesperson Khieu Kanharith apologized for the violence.

"We did not expect this to go this far . . . It was a mistake. We apologize and regret what happened to Thailand and her people," he told The Associated Press in Phnom Penh.

Four of the five C-130 planes sent to Ph nom Penh earlier Thursday returned to Bangkok with 511 people while the fifth carried commandos who conducted the operation, said Gen. Vichit Yathip, the chief military adviser.

"The operation went on smoothly with the cooperation from Cambodian Army. There were no protests at the airport. Our commando . . . were there only to provide security," he told reporters.

He said the Thai armed forces were put on full alert at the border, while the navy has deployed warships as a precautionary measure.

"But please understand that the country is not at war," he said.

Among the passengers were six people who had sustained injuries in attacks on Thai-owned companies and hotels, according to an official on one of the planes.

Among those evacuated were the 10 diplomats and officials of the Thai Embassy, which was partially gutted. Three hotels including the Royal Phnom Penh, two restaurants, a Thai Airways office and three telecom company offices were also set on fire, Vichit said. Thai Airways suspended its flights to Phnom Penh.

Gen. Lertrat Rathanawanit, another senior Army official, said one Thai who worked at the Royal Phnom Penh hotel was missing, and is presumed dead.

"We are searching but he may already be dead," he said. *AP*

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Banks reopen as Venezuela strike falters

CARACAS—Venezuelan banks decided Wednesday to resume full operations, further weakening a 59-day-old strike even as beleaguered President Hugo Chavez scored victories in the severely affected oil sector.

The National Banking Council decided that financial institutions would resume regular seven-hour working days rather than the half-day schedule they had adopted in support of the strike.

The decision follows reports that the government threatened to fine banks and suspend executives who continue the partial strike in violation of a presidential decree ordering banks to resume regular operations.

Meanwhile the opposition parties backing the strike on Wednesday said it would agree to a constitutional amendment shortening Chavez's mandate, followed by elections, if fired oil industry executives were reinstated.

Ali Rodriguez, president of Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) said that 5,100 of the company's more than 38,000 employees had been fired.

The business, labor and political leaders heading the strike are seeking to force Chavez from office, claiming he is ruining the economy and slowly turning the country into a communist dictatorship.

They have pledged to pursue the strike until they obtain an iron-clad agreement that would make it possible to vote Chavez out of office.

But determined efforts by the leftist-populist president to break the strike have evidently borne fruit, even though the protest continued to severely affect the economy.

Daily oil production, which was down to a trickle a few weeks ago is now at least one third of its pre-strike levels of over three million barrels. Chavez put daily output at 1.3 million barrels, while the opposition has conceded it passed the one million barrel mark.

Chavez said Wednesday that El Palito oil refinery, located 125 km west of Caracas, had relaunched operations two days ago.

But he admitted in a broadcast Wednesday: "We still have a lot of problems because we are not yet at full production." And he urged prosecutors to charge strike leaders at PDVSA for damaging the oil industry.

The government says most of the production is being exported.

The crisis has caused severe concern in the United States, the main importer of Venezuelan oil, which is preparing for possible war with Iraq.

Chavez has expressed confidence production would be back to regular levels within about a month, though experts are skeptical of the claim.

While the strike has mainly targeted PDVSA, the giant state oil company, it also shut down a number of businesses.

Chavez said exchange controls would begin next week to prevent currency speculation.

"Savage capitalists began to attack the currency and leave us without resources to buy food, medicine," he said. *AFP*

Nepal, rebels announce truce

KATHMANDU—The Nepalese government plans to call an all-party conference to map out the country's political future, a senior minister said Thursday, following the dramatic late-night announcement of a ceasefire with Maoist rebels.

Public Works and Transport Minister Narayan Singh Pun, the appointed chief government negotiator, told AFP the immediate next step would be face-to-face talks with rebel leaders, possibly as early as next week.

These would be followed, he said, by a round-table conference with representatives of all political parties, civil society and human rights groups.

Late Wednesday, the Maoist rebels who have been waging a "people's war" in Nepal since 1996 and the Kathmandu government announced a mutual ceasefire and said peace talks would begin in "a couple of days." Pun said Thursday the date and venue of the talks had yet to be fixed.

"The government is waiting for a formal communication from the Maoist leaders as to who will be leading their team. We are hopeful of getting this communication within this week," he said.

"We are going to deal very carefully so that the ceasefire declaration by the Maoist leaders will be effective and leads to a cessation of all activities by the Maoists." He said there would be a written agreement between the government and the Maoists to formalize the ceasefire declaration.

The rebels' demand for a republic, that a new constitution be drafted and that elections be held for a constituent assembly, he said, would be discussed at the round-table talks.

"They will be discussed gradually when we sit for the peace dialogue," Pun said.

Meanwhile, Nepal's political leaders, including the president of the Nepali Congress party, Girija Prasad Koirala and Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal, Thursday cautiously welcomed the ceasefire declaration but bitterly criticized the government.

Nepal complained the government had not taken political leaders into its confidence nor had it briefed them on the terms and conditions of the ceasefire agreement.

Wednesday's breakthrough, according to a senior leader of Prime Minister Lokenda Bahadur Chand's National Democratic Party (NDP), had come about through the direct intervention of King Gyanendra.

The source told AFP the king held marathon talks with rebel leaders in his palace here on Monday.

Gyanendra was "perturbed" at the assassination on Sunday of armed police force chief Krishna Mohan Shrestha along with his wife Nudu and a bodyguard while on an early-morning walk, said the source, who did not want to be identified.

Kathmandu's popular Nepali daily, the Samacharpatra, said Thursday the king went into a huddle for more than five hours with Maoist leaders Pushpa Kamal Dahal, alias Prachand, and Babu Ram Bhattarai on Monday during which the current political situation was discussed in depth.

The paper said Wednesday's ceasefire declaration by both the Maoists and the government was a direct result of the talks. *AFP*

THE DUKE and Duchess of Windsor pose after their wedding at the Chateau de Cande near Tours, France, on June 3, 1937. After his abdication, Edward and his new wife became the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. AP

Wallis Simpson had secret lover as she was wooed by future king

LONDON—American divorcee Wallis Simpson had a secret lover in the 1930s while she was being courted by the Prince of Wales, who later became Britain's King Edward VIII, according to government files released Thursday.

The previously top-secret papers disclosed that police officers spied on Simpson and Edward, who gave up his throne in 1936 to marry Simpson.

Scotland Yard officers discovered that Simpson was having an affair, behind her royal suitor's back, with Guy Trundle, a motor engineer and Ford Motor Company car salesman.

According to a Special Branch report of July 3, 1935, Simpson even paid her secret lover money and bought him expensive presents.

The police report said: "The identity of Mrs. Simpson's secret love has been definitely ascertained. He is Guy Marcus Trundle.

"Trundle is described as a very charming adventurer, very good looking, well bred and an excellent dancer.

"He meets Mrs Simpson quite openly at informal social gatherings as a personal friend, but secret meetings are made by appointment when intimate relations take place.

"Trundle receives money from Mrs Simpson as well as expensive presents. He has admitted this." Police reports said Trundle had a wife, whom he married in 1932.

The official files released by the Public Records Office in London also said that Edward hoped to tell Britons of his love for Simpson and persuade them he should marry her and still keep his throne.

Then Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin stopped Edward from speaking, according to the documents, and the king didn't publicly discuss the relationship that ended his short reign until giving a farewell address as he stepped down on Dec. 11, 1936.

"I could not go on bearing the heavy burdens that constantly rest on me as king unless I could be strengthened in the task by a happy married life," reads the text Edward had hoped to deliver on Dec. 4, 1936, on British Broadcasting Corp. radio. "And so I am firmly resolved to marry the woman I love."

"Neither Mrs. Simpson nor I have ever sought to insist that she should be queen," the script continued. "All we desired was that our married happiness should carry with it a proper title and dignity for her, befitting my wife."

Edward's text said he would take time away to give Britons a chance to reflect on his request, adding "nothing is nearer to my heart than that I should return."

A letter from Baldwin—who firmly opposed letting Edward marry Simpson and remain king—said government ministers would have to approve such a speech, something Baldwin refused to do.

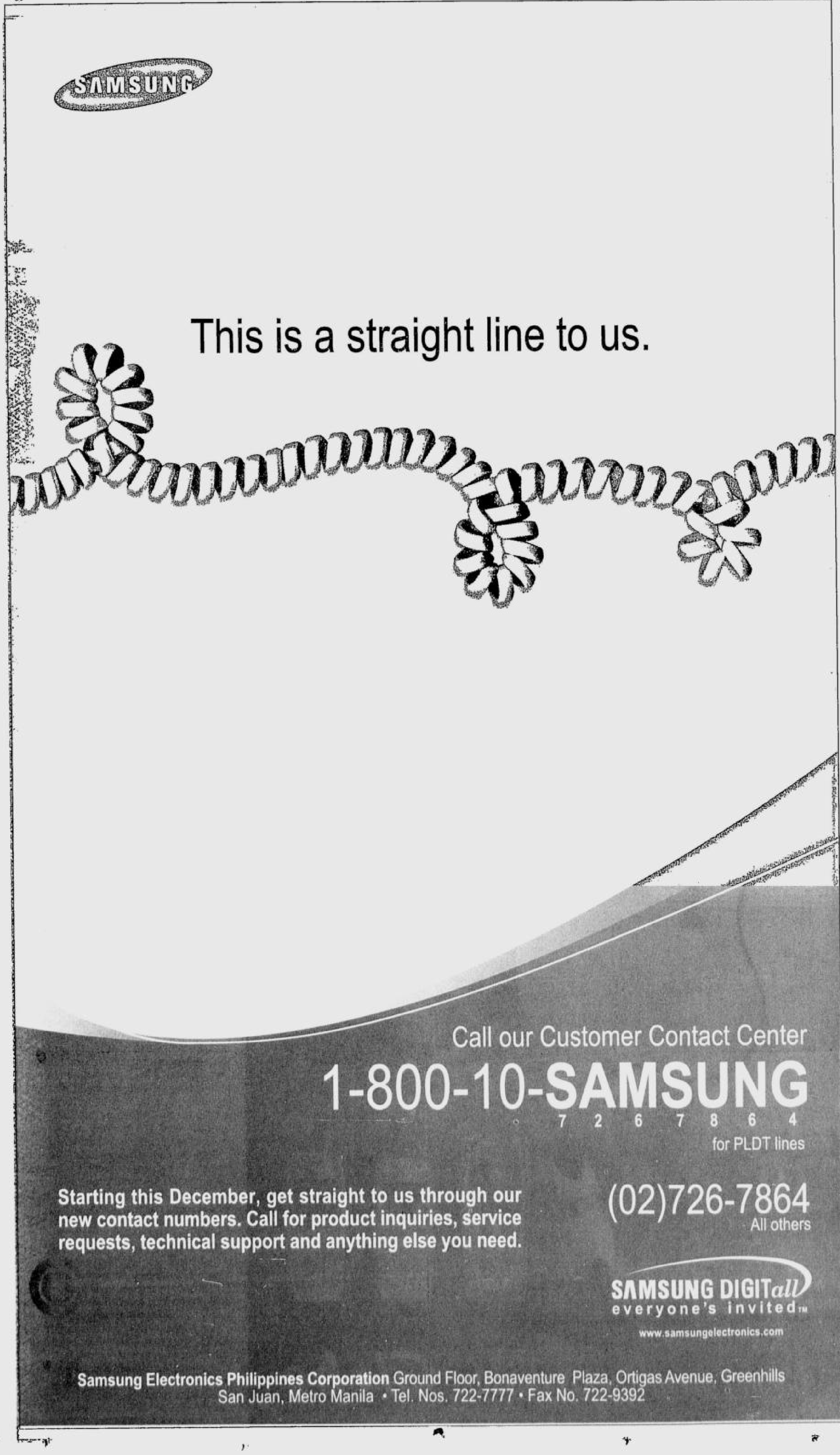
Susan Williams, the Public Records Office's historical adviser, said minutes of Cabinet meetings showed ministers feared Winston Churchill—then at odds with the Conservative Party he later led—would exploit Edward's popularity to form a new party and challenge the government.

The abdication created an international sensation and a constitutional crisis for Britain, because Edward's plans to wed were thought to conflict with the monarch's position as head of the Church of England, which forbade divorce.

Edward's younger brother succeeded as King George VI, and the disgraced former king and his new wife became the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, living mainly in France.

Documents relating to the royal family once remained routinely sealed for 100 years, but officials agreed in the 1990s that they should be made public after 30 years unless there was good reason to keep them confidential for longer.

The Public Records Office agreed to gather and then release all remaining government papers on the abdication, more than 100 files. *AFP and AP*



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DENR regional head faces bribery raps

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A local environmental watchdog has accused the regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of receiving bribes from traffickers of illegal logs operating in Northern Mindanao.

In a letter to Environment Secretary Elizea Gozun, the Task Force Macajalar (TFM) said it had witnesses to prove its case against Fernando Quililan.

Quililan said the charges were unfounded. "It is impossible for me to demand money (from loggers) because all releases must undergo deliberation proceedings by more than five people and the results would be submitted to the legal panel of DENR," he said.

He said he was not afraid to face any investigation because he had not done anything wrong.

Bencyrus Ellorin, TFM spokesperson, said money had changed hands in the trafficking of illegally cut logs mostly from Caraga and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

His group was ready to produce the witnesses but Gozun should ensure their safety first, Ellorin said. With the witnesses and the TFM's "strong" case, he said, Gozun would have no reason to immediately start an investigation and issue a decision in two weeks.

The case against Quililan stemmed from military allegations that he had been ordering the release of confiscated logs despite the lack of documents.

Earlier, Army Maj. Johnny Macanas, 4th Infantry Division spokesperson, called for Quililan's ouster for allegedly failing to stop illegal logging operations in the region.

The DENR official denied that illegal loggers were operating in Northern Mindanao. But he admitted that there were "isolated" incidents of timber poaching in some parts of the city and in Bukidnon.

In a letter to Gozun, Quililan said Macanas could be referring to the trafficking of lumber from Caraga and the ARMM.

He said the military was wrong when it claimed that the DENR in the region did nothing about the transport of illegal logs. He said his men apprehended only 44 truckloads of logs, not 74 as the military claimed.

Quililan also denied receiving bribe for the release of the seized logs.

"Such bribery of that magnitude is impossible to be demanded by me because all the releases must undergo a deliberation proceedings composed of more than five people and the results would be submitted to the legal panel of the DENR," he said.

"Such bribery of P40,000 would be too much for the owners. They could not survive in that business when they could only ship a gross of P80,000. Where is the profit there?" he said.

Macanas said they would seek the court's intervention once the DENR decided to release the apprehended logs consisting of *lauan*, mahogany, *dau* and other species.

No radioactive danger at Clark, says nuke body

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) has allayed fears of radioactive contamination in this former American military base turned economic zone.

The agency's officials also gave assurance that radiation levels in the air, soil and water here "do not pose any danger" to the health of workers and residents.

The PNRI, the government agency monitoring environmental radioactivity in the country, made the assurance after Dr. Rosalie Bertell, a Canadian nuclear expert, questioned the methods, standards and findings of a study by the institute in Clark's former ammunition dump in October last year.

Bertell, who reviewed the study on the request of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup, said authorities did not test the presence of uranium and tritium, and eliminated a check on surface contamination.

On the standards used, she said: "The perceived impact of low levels found should not be the basis for judgment on whether or not people are going to be affected because the set standard is based only on the studies of young, male and healthy Caucasian."

Dr. Alumanda de la Rosa, acting PNRI director, said the institute had used "state-of-the-art and sensitive nuclear equipment" in the "comprehensive measurements and evaluation of man-made and naturally-occurring radiation" in the air, soil and water samples collected in Clark since 1998.

De la Rosa said the study, which Bertell reviewed, showed that radiation levels of cesium-137 were within normal background values.

"(These) do not pose any risk to public health," she said in a statement here Wednesday.

She said the presence of uranium-238 was tested. "(The) radiation levels are within the background levels of uranium-238 concentrations previously measured by the PNRI in the entire country. These range from 2 to 53 becquerel (unit of radiation) per kilogram," De la Rosa said.

The water system at Clark was "unlikely" contaminated, she said, adding that water samples taken there showed "non-detectable levels of the man-made radioactive elements cesium-137 and tritium."

Since 1998, the institute has been using in Clark a mobile car-borne gamma ray spectrometric system in measuring natural radioactivity map and monitoring of gamma radiation, De la Rosa said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cops file charges vs slum leaders

ROXAS CITY—Thirteen leaders of squatters are facing charges of illegal assembly for holding pickets at the offices of the Register of Deeds and Department of Environment and Natural Resources to protest their ejection from a contested property in Barangays Cogon and Dumolog here.

Police filed the complaint before the City Prosecutor's Office on Jan. 21, a day after the pickets were mounted by about 200 squatters who were evicted and those occupying lots along Hemingway Street.

The Dumolog and Cogon squatters were ejected last year on orders of the court after it declared a businesswoman, Vilma Olano, the rightful owner of the lot.

They said they should not have been thrown out because their case had been elevated to the Supreme Court. They insisted that the property was part of public domain since it is located along the shoreline. *Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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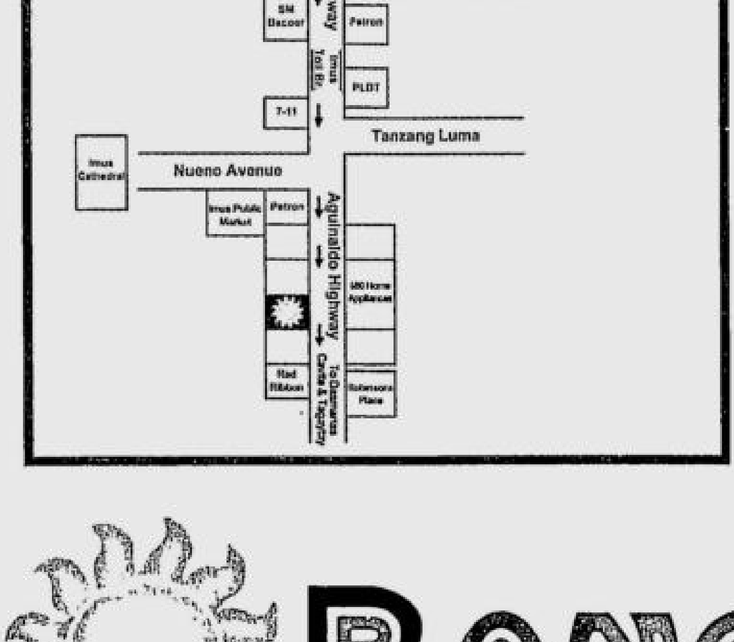

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HAZING CASE

PMA orders arrest of cadet

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Philippine Military Academy officials on Wednesday ordered the arrest of another cadet for a hazing incident that occurred in November last year.

Cadet Fourth Class Edmond John Pangilinan accused Cadet Third Class Geraldo Domingo Alvarez of hurting him in the course of a routine cadet activity, said Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson.

Alvarez was administratively discharged from the PMA on Wednesday and was immediately turned over to the Baguio City police by the academy's Judge Advocate General Office (Jago).

But the PMA only charged Alvarez with serious physical injuries, instead of with violations of the anti-hazing law.

"We could not charge him with hazing. The anti-hazing law is limited to hazing incidences that involved a rite of passage or introduction into an organization. The PMA cadets are already indoctrinated and absorbed into the military, and this incident occurred when they were already members of the military," Arevalo said.

"The tribunal issued its judgment, but Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan (PMA superintendent) wanted to pursue it further so he directed us to file criminal charges against the cadet. He wants to make sure that the no maltreatment policy (of PMA) sticks," Arevalo said.

Alvarez is detained at the city jail. He shares cells with former PMA cadets John Louie Ong and Michael Perang, who were convicted in November last year for a fatal hazing incident in 2001.

Judge Ruben Ayson convicted Perang and Ong of homicide for the death of Cadet Third Class Edward Domingo.

Arevalo said the PMA's battalion board had tried Alvarez administratively before submitting him to civilian courts.

"Based on the *prima facie* evidence presented before a battalion board, Alvarez was found to have violated cadet regulations pertinent to maltreatment (and was) recommended for separation from service," Arevalo said in a statement.

Arevalo said Alvarez and Pangilinan were roommates and the consequences of the incident appeared to be similar to the Domingo case.

A medical report said Pangilinan suffered bruises and cuts in his knees, chest and head, apparently due to heavy beating. This type of punishment is commonly known in the academy as "*kabog*."

Pangilinan was hospitalized after the incident but Arevalo said the cadet had since rejoined his company.

"The academy's message to the cadets is clear, direct and unequivocal. PMA authorities will not hesitate, much to its consternation, to file administrative or even criminal cases against erring cadets if need be, especially the ones dealing (with) maltreatment," the PMA statement said. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Worn-out helmets don't make Pinoys shrink in shame

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

FILIPINO paratroopers show their worn-out helmets during the Friendship Jump with their American counterparts on Monday at Clark Field in Pampanga. DENNIS SABANGAN

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Leaping in batches of nine or 12 from out of an MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft on Monday, most of 110 Filipino and American soldiers looked one and the same from 1,000 feet high.

Suspended on green parachutes that swelled like huge mushrooms on mid-air, the jumpers created silhouettes of grace and courage, their gliding calculated like disciples of the wind.

Whatever appearance of likeness they shared while in the air stopped when they descended at the drop zone.

For some members of the Philippine Army's Special Forces and Scout Rangers—the frontliners in the government's anti-insurgency campaign—the disparity begins with the helmets.

The helmets' interior linings have replaced the pads with strips of old rubber slippers or foam from appliance package. The straps, already tattered, are held together by electric or masking tape.

"We really have to improvise because these are already old," said one after loading the parachute kit bag onto an Army truck. "We make do with what we have."

He said the gear belonged to the supplies received by the Armed Forces of the Philippines from the US in the 1970s. It is made of fiberglass.

'Made in USA'

With minor dents but many scratches on the exterior, the helmet is marked "Made in the USA." The label has hardly peeled off.

"Even if our helmets looked like this, we don't feel embarrassed when we're with our American counterparts. We have proven we can be at par with them at least in skills," said one Scout Ranger.

And the kit bags? Not everyone in the military's regular jump master course has this. "Some of us buy the used bag in Dau (Mabalacat, Pampanga) at P250 each," a member of the Special Forces said.

In Monday's "Friendship Jump," the first event of the joint military exercise Balance Piston 03-5 held under the Visiting Forces Agreement, some of the parachutes, complete with reserve chutes, were lent by the American participants.

Faded pairs

What about uniforms? Although donning worn-out helmets, only a few were garbed in faded outfits. One quipped they preferred wearing the new pairs only during joint exercises. "In the field, the old ones are best to wear," he added.

One, however, would have to stitch his pants back to their old form.

In contrast, the American participants from the 17th Special Operations Squadron sported modern, newer helmets and other jumping gear during the two lifts.

And they have the Combat Shadow, which is not in the fleet of the Philippine Air Force. Mainly used for the air refueling of special operation forces helicopters, the aircraft's flyaway cost runs to $18.6 million, according to a US Air Force fact sheet.

Still, no one in the batch of Philippine Army men has admitted to feeling inferior or has voiced out observations that VFA-related exercises magnify further the big difference between the equipment of the American and Philippine military.

There is lament, however, for the slow pace of the AFP modernization program.

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7 young detainees charged with rape

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Seven wards of a detention facility for young offenders were charged with rape for allegedly molesting an 11-year-old fellow inmate last year.

Acting City Prosecutor Jose Pedrosa approved the filing of the charges against the suspects, aged 16 to 17 years old, before the Regional Trial Court on Wednesday.

A separate case of three counts of rape was filed against Clint (not his real name), 16, for allegedly molesting the victim on three occasions last year.

Pedrosa upheld the resolution of Assistant City Prosecutor Aida Sanchez who found probable cause to file the charges against the seven.

In her resolution, Sanchez said the mere denials of the suspects were not sufficient to belie the claim of the victim.

The charges stemmed from a complaint filed by Chief Insp. Ronal John Danao, warden of the Operations Second Chance in Barangay Kalunasan, this city, based on the allegation of James (not his real name) that his fellow inmates had sexually molested him last year.

James claimed that Clint, along with the six other suspects, raped him a few days after he arrived at the detention facility on Aug. 21, 2002 on theft charges. Again, he was raped in September.

On Oct. 31, James said all seven took turns raping him inside his cell.

The victim said he had kept quiet because the suspects threatened to harm him if he told jail authorities about it.

But in November last year, James revealed his ordeal during one of the therapy sessions that were being conducted as part of the rehabilitation program for minor offenders.

The seven suspects have been placed in another cell to isolate them from the other inmates.

Honest taxi driver cited by Davao City officials

DAVAO CITY—Honest taxi drivers still thrive in this city, according to acting Mayor Amilbangsa Manding.

Manding was expressing his gratitude to a taxi driver who turned over to him P18,500 in cash left by one of his passengers on Wednesday.

Sonnyboy Encio, 33, driver of Michelle Taxi, said the money, contained in a brown envelope, was handed over to him by two persons whom he brought to the Treasure Inn here at around 6 a.m. The two, he said, found the envelope on the back seat.

Encio, a taxi driver for two years, said that when he opened the envelope, he found the money and several receipts. But there was no indication who owned it, he said, so he drove to City Hall and went to the mayor's office to present it.

Manding, who has temporarily taken over Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's post since last week, said he was very grateful that honest drivers like Encio still existed in the city.

In 1997, Rodel Pagobo, then a driver of Avis Taxi, received the 8th Kalakbay Award from the Department of Tourism for returning an attaché case left by a Korean visitor in his vehicle.

City Administrator Melchor Quitain said he would be calling up taxi companies to recommend a permanent job to Encio. But he changed his mind when reporters asked him if City Hall had no available positions for people like the taxi driver.

"I will make a recommendation to Mayor Duterte. We need people like him," Quitain said.

A dumbfounded Encio said he did not expect that the city government would be interested in hiring him.

In a brief talk with reporters before leaving the city mayor's office, Encio said he never became interested in the money.

"It is not my money. Its owner might need the money more than I do, so I returned it," he said. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bodies of slain rebels found

COTABATO CITY—The bodies of 17 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels and suspected kidnappers, who were reportedly killed in a clash with Army soldiers on Monday in a remote village in Damulog, Bukidnon have been recovered, the military announced Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Glen Macasero, commander of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion, said the bodies, all male, had bullet wounds and were dumped in a shallow grave.

The slain rebels wore fatigue uniforms with MILF patches, Macasero said. He said villagers identified one of those killed as Commander Ayug Abdula, whose unit operated in southern Bukidnon.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said their forces in the North Cotabato-Bukidnon areas had not fought soldiers on Monday. "Perhaps they [government troops] clashed with other groups," he said.

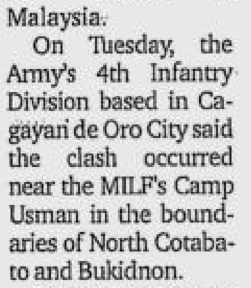
"Probably, the military was only concocting lies. Military commanders usually do this as [peace] negotiations near," he said. Government and rebel peace negotiators were expected to meet early next month in Malaysia.

On Tuesday, the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City said the clash occurred near the MILF's Camp Usman in the boundaries of North Cotabato and Bukidnon.

Kabalu said all MILF commanders operating in the areas had denied that any encounter took place between their forces and Army soldiers. The rebel group also disowned Abdula.

Charging that the military intended to "create a scenario to muddle the peace process," Kabalu said the soldiers could have simply massacred civilians in the area and later claimed that the victims were rebels.

Macasero described as preposterous the MILF's suggestion that the military might have resorted to killing civilians to justify its demand for the government to abandon the peace process. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase with a report by Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ERRATUM

Those who want to help Amable Cabantac, an 18-year-old student who needs immediate kidney transplant and whose story was published in the INQUIRER Southern Luzon yesterday, can get in touch with his father Francisco at Tel. No. (02) 893-5531. The telephone number indicated in the story for donors was erroneous. Our apology.

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Highest GDP growth since 1997

From page A1

trade sectors and lowering of tariffs on imported raw materials.

"We continue to reap the benefits of deregulation in the telecommunication sector, which grew robustly at 8.9 percent. Trade continues to benefit from strong consumer demand, as giant local retailers opened up new malls in regions outside Metro Manila," he said.

Even agriculture, which felt the initial effects of the El Niño phenomenon in 2002, grew 3.5 percent compared with 3.7 percent in 2001.

"The slide in palay production was mitigated by measures, such as the distribution of high-yielding and certified seeds and the rehabilitation of irrigation facilities," Neri said.

Officials blamed slowing growth in the farm sector on a dry spell during the second and third quarters that ravaged rice, corn and other major crops.

Industrial growth also rose by 4.1 percent in 2002 from 1.3 percent in 2001 due largely to increased natural gas production from the Malampaya field off the coast of the western Philippines, Neri said.

Growth into social equity

Ms Macapagal pledged to translate the growth into social equity, saying the government would step up agricultural, housing and transport projects.

The President has said she will make the economy her priority in her remaining year in office.

The 55-year-old economist, who took office two years ago after mass protests ousted her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, on corruption charges, said last month she would not run for president in the 2004 elections.

Despite the strong growth, the economy is undermined by budget deficit problems, weak tax collection, pervasive graft, wilting investor confidence and security threats from leftist and Muslim rebel groups.

A ballooning budget deficit, which hit a record high P212.7 billion in 2002, unemployment at more than 10 percent and poverty have hampered the government's efforts to improve the economy.

Optimistic forecast

Looking ahead, the government said the 4.2-percent GDP forecast was based on a "worst-case scenario" that oil prices would rise and exports would fall due to a war in Iraq.

"With the economy on a healthy footing in 2002, we see growth being sustained in 2003," Neri said.

Key microeconomic reforms in areas such as banking, transport and housing, would spur growth this year, Neri said.

He said the government could target a higher GDP growth of 6 percent this year through microeconomic initiatives, including a nationwide lending program to boost the output of small and medium enterprise, plus infrastructure development particularly in the transport sector.

The industry sector is forecast to grow by 3.4 to 4.4 percent this year, owing to new measures to boost mining, housing, and small and medium-scale enterprises.

The agriculture sector is expected to grow by 3 to 4 percent as the government continues to implement measures to mitigate the El Nino phenomenon, Neri said.

Services is seen expanding by 5.2 to 6.2 percent on strong growth in the telecommunication, trade and private services sectors.

"Policies to liberalize air transportation and measures to boost housing should further keep services healthy. In banking and finance, we are hopeful that the implementation of the special purpose vehicle law will pave the way for greater financial activity in 2003 and over the medium term," Neri said.

Skepticism

Some analysts, however, expressed skepticism about the data, noting that the government earlier made a downward revision to current account data for 2000 and 2001 to reflect underreporting of imports of electronics components.

GK Goh Securities research head and regional economist Song Seng Wun said the government's growth figure "seems too good to be true."

"It's an exceptional acrobatic performance against the environment where we had uncertainty over law and order in the aftermath of the Bali bomb attack," he told financial news service AFX-Asia.

Song, who had projected 2002 GDP growth at 4.2 percent, said the government figure. "doesn't seem to be consistent with the figures we are seeing elsewhere on the economy."

Mark Alan Canizares of Citisec-online.com warned GDP growth in 2003 would not be as strong as last year, given the outlook for oil prices, which could shoot up if war breaks out in Iraq.

David Cohen, chief macroeconomic forecaster at SP/MMS International, said GDP growth "in the 4-percent range looks within reach, although like everyone else, the prospects are clouded by uncertainties."

"There is a risk that the oil price shock (from the war) would prove disruptive to both the local and global economy, but for now we can remain cautiously optimistic," he remarked. *With reports from Donna Z. Pazzibugan and Inquirer wires*

Sin to GMA: Align with Pope not Bush

From page A1

dress Wednesday.

Bush said the United States was determined to go to war if Iraq did not fully disarm. After Bush's speech, Ms Macapagal said she was supporting the US decision to present evidence against Iraq to the United Nations Security Council.

In his pastoral letter, Sin also appealed to Ms Macapagal to remain true to her promise to be "a faithful daughter of the Church" by not supporting "the unjust war efforts being proposed by the United States of America."

"Be a peacemaker! Show the world that we Filipinos are promoters and defenders of peace. That is what Edsa I and II are all about! We are not anti-American. We are anti-war! We are not pro-Iraq. We are pro-peace!" Sin said.

Echoing the Pope's rejection of war, Sin said that "war is not always inevitable. It is always a defeat for humanity."

In the Senate, four senators—Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto and Noli de Castro—filed a resolution calling on the Macapagal administration to act with prudence on the US plan to wage a war on Iraq.

UN approval needed

At a press conference, Arroyo, Pangilinan and Recto reminded Ms Macapagal of the constitutional provision which renounces war as an instrument of national policy. They said any war on Iraq must have the approval of the UN Security Council.

Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the committee on foreign relations, is expected to immediately endorse the resolution to the Senate floor for adoption.

War may yet be averted if Iraq complies with United Nations resolutions, Ms Macapagal said.

"Iraq must give the UN Security Council resolutions the most urgent and serious compliance, for the sake of mankind," the President said in a speech at the 12th anniversary rites of the Philippine National Police. The UN resolutions seek to compel Baghdad to disclose its programs for developing weapons of mass destruction.

The President's call for "compliance" sounded more urgent compared with her statement Wednesday in which she asked Iraq to give the UN resolutions the "most urgent and serious consideration."

Despite the beating of war drums in Washington, the President expressed "hope (that) the issue of Iraq can be resolved peacefully under the auspices of the United Nations."

It was the same hope expressed by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople. He said full and verifiable compliance by Iraq was the only way to bring the world back from the brink of war.

"There is still a window of opportunity before we have to face the ugly specter of war in the Middle East. Between now and Feb. 5, all nations of the world must call on Iraq to comply with obligations as stated in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," Ople said in a statement from Brussels.

On that day, US President George W. Bush is scheduled to present before the UN Security Council evidence of alleged Iraqi violations of UN resolutions on weapons of mass destruction.

"The safety of our 1.4 million Filipinos in the Middle East remains our primary concern . . . But in the long term, our Filipinos in the Middle East cannot be truly safe until . . . the issue of the possession by Iraq of weapons of mass destruction is fully addressed and resolved," he said.

Why are noisy?

At the press conference, Senator Arroyo said the Philippines was the only country in Asia that was actively supporting the US plan to attack Iraq.

He noted that France, Germany, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea were silent on the war issue.

"So why are we (noisy)?" he asked. "President Macapagal's support for the Bush doctrine is worrisome. What's the quid pro quo?"

Arroyo said a war in the Middle East would lead to innumerable loss of lives, enormous waste of financial and human resources and massive displacement of Filipino workers.

"What do we get for supporting the US?" he asked.

"Travel advisories to Americans not to come to the Philippines, the threat that the Philippines will be blacklisted because of the Anti-Money Laundering Council, and the threat of a possible US veto of a $30-million assistance to the country," Arroyo said.

Pangilinan said supporting the war would heighten terrorism in the region and aggravate the problem considering that Indonesia and Malaysia, both Muslim countries, are neighbors.

For his part, Recto said the war would have negative effects on the economy. He noted that the Philippines was importing oil worth $3 billion from the Middle East per year. In case of war, the country's oil imports would shoot up to $4.5 billion, he said.

"Remember, 30 percent of our exports to the US will be weakened because of war. Hence, our foreign exchange earnings will be depleted. Tourism will fall," Recto said. "That's why we are against any unilateral action by the US in its planned war against Iraq,"

In calling the United States to drop its plan to wage a "defensive war," Sin asked the people to pray for peace on Feb. 1, the Day of Our Lady, by reciting the rosary publicly.

He also asked churches and religious communities to hold an hour of Eucharistic adoration for world peace and to stage penitential dawn processions. At 6 p.m. on that day, people are urged to light candles as a "gesture for the cause of peace." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Baghdad warns Muslims will hit US facilities worldwide

From page A1

bers.

With thousands of US troops pouring into the Gulf region, Bush will meet Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi later on Thursday to discuss a possible deadline for Iraq's disarmament.

After Berlusconi, who has told Washington that US transport planes bound for the Gulf may use military bases in Italy, Bush will hold talks at Camp David on Friday with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his staunchest ally on Iraq.

"They will discuss the next steps to take in the face of Iraq's failure to date to disarm and comply with United Nation's Resolution No. 1441," said White House National Security Council spokesperson Sean McCormack.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer predicted "an uptick in the tempo" of diplomacy with an increase in meetings and phone calls by Bush in the coming days and weeks.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal will also come to Washington from Paris on Thursday for talks at the White House. Prince Saud, the highest ranking Saudi official to visit Washington in months, is expected to focus mostly on Iraq and US military preparations for a possible war.

The diplomatic flurry comes ahead of US Secretary of State Colin Powell's appearance before the UN Security Council on Feb. 5. He is expected to reveal US intelligence reports showing Saddam has been hiding weapons of mass destruction and consorting with terror groups, including Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Baghdad's UN ambassador, Mohammed Aldouri, told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday that Muslims around the world would attack American facilities if the United States started a war.

"Certainly US interests will be endangered in the Arab world and the Muslim world. I am certain of that," Aldouri said. "They cannot accept that a whole country will be attacked."

The ambassador also distributed a seven-page paper to Security Council members that rebutted UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix, who sharply criticized Iraq for failing to account for past chemical, biological and ballistic weapons programs.

Feb. 14 deadline?

The White House strategy showed some early signs of success as key allies came to Washington's defense in the showdown with Iraq.

Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham said in Ottawa on Wednesday that Baghdad had only a few weeks to comply fully with UN resolutions or face action.

"The Iraqis are on notice. They have probably till Feb. 14 before a decision will have to be made about bringing them into conformity with their international obligations," he said.

Feb. 14 is the day when Blix is scheduled to report again to the Security Council.

Newspapers across Europe on Thursday published a letter from prime ministers of eight European nations declaring solidarity with the Bush administration.

On the list were Italy, Portugal, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, the Czech Republic and council members Britain and Spain.

Still, no member of the UN Security Council changed positions during a closed-door session on Wednesday, with most of them hoping war could be averted or delayed by allowing weapons inspectors more time.

Supporting continued inspections were France, Russia and China, which all have veto power, as well as Germany, Mexico, Chile, Guinea, Cameroon, Syria, Angola and Pakistan. Only Bulgaria and Spain supported the tough US-British stance that time had run out for Iraq to cooperate actively with disarmament demands in UN resolutions.

Even so, Bush stepped up his calls for Iraq to be disarmed by force if necessary and for the Security Council to ensure that end, while Powell held out exile as a possible way to avoid war.

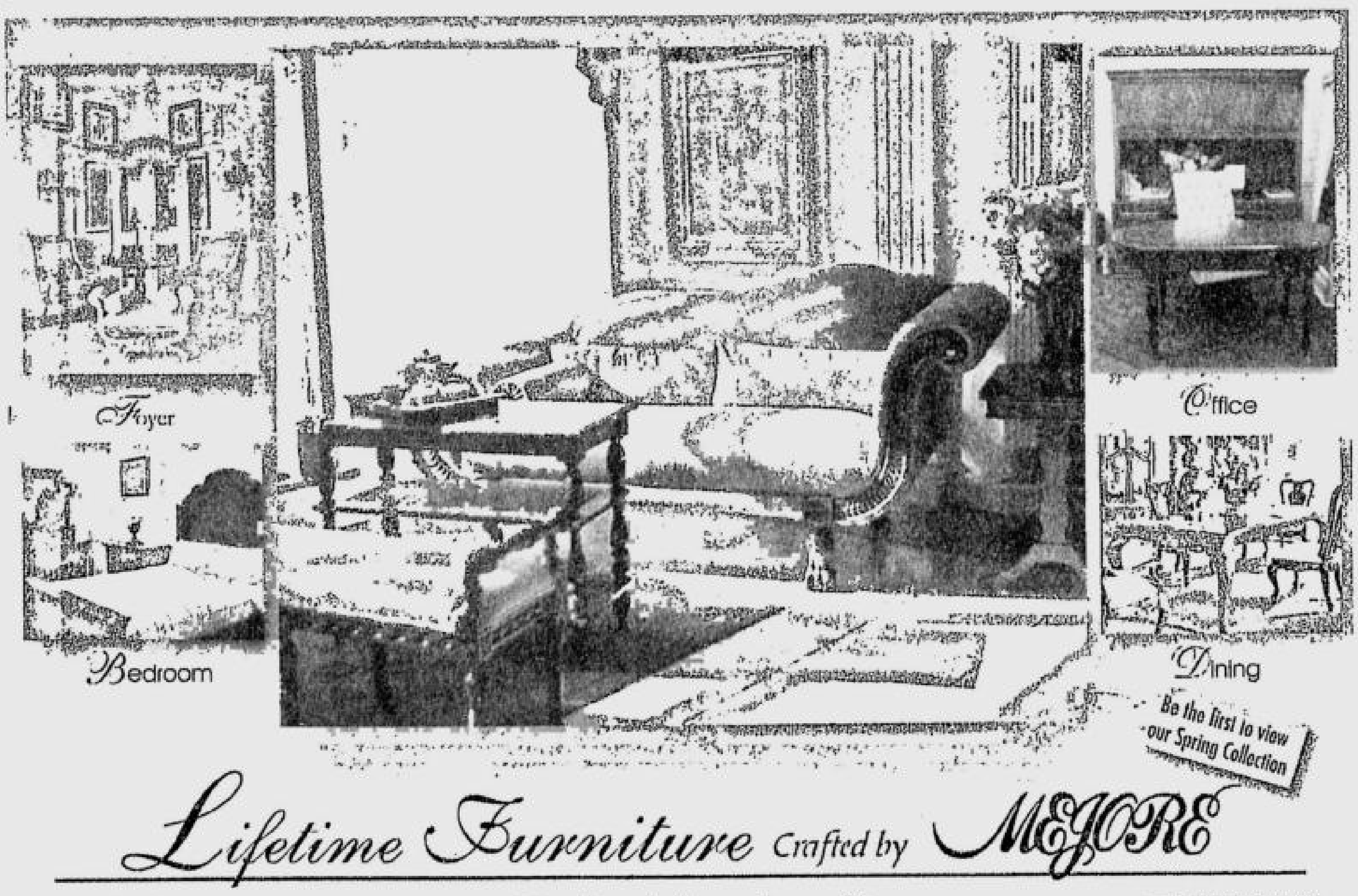
"We got to deal with him . . . before it is too late," Bush said on a visit to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he told a cheering crowd that he "wanted the United Nations to be something other than an empty debating society."

"I call upon the world to come together and insist that this dangerous man disarm," he said, reprising some main elements from his annual State of the Union address to Congress late on Tuesday.

"But should they choose not to continue to pressure Saddam, and should he continue to defy the world, for the sake of our peace, for the sake of the security, this country will lead a coalition of other willing nations and we will disarm Saddam Hussein," Bush said.

For his part, Powell said that Washington was prepared to help find a place of exile for Saddam and his family to avoid war.

"If he were to leave the country and take some of his family members with him and others in the elite who have been responsible for so much trouble during the course of his regime, we would, I am sure, try to help find a place for them to go," he said. *Reports from Reuters and AP*



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Sperm banks tell . . .

From page A1

across the United States, which are heeding the call of patriotism.

California Cryobank, one of the nation's largest sperm banks, said on Wednesday that more than 40 military personnel had taken up a one year's free sperm storage offer as a precaution against the possibly harmful effects of vaccine or chemical weapons exposure on their fertility.

"You wouldn't believe the interest we have gotten. It has been incredible. We tried this in the Gulf War in '91 and we probably had about 15 to 17 soldiers do it," said Dr. Cappy Rothman, medical director of California Cryobank.

"We're now having an increased flow of telephone calls. We now have about 40 troops in the past two or three weeks who have gone out of their way to store their sperm before they go to war," Rothman said.

New England Cryogenic Center Inc., a privately held family-run sperm bank in Boston, said it was offering a 50-percent discount for the military servicemen headed to Middle East.

The promotion, which has been running for a month, has led to a modest increase in inquiries from prospective clients, according to a company spokesperson.

"We have had additional phone calls about how quickly the entire procedure takes. It's as simple as getting a prescription from a doctor to come in. Within a week you could have 20 vials," she said.

Another large sperm bank, Fairfax Cryobank in Virginia, has been getting two or three appointments a week since deployment started a couple of months ago.

Concern over the possible side effects of anthrax and smallpox vaccinations, together with fears that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein might use chemical or biological weapons against invading troops, has spurred the rush by soldiers to protect their legacy.

Others are motivated by memories of "Gulf War Syndrome" following the 1991 war to oust Iraq from Kuwait. Veterans' groups have long suspected that pesticides in the battlefield, burning oil tanks, bombs made from depleted uranium and vaccine cocktails caused health problems ranging from exhaustion to loss of motor function.

Neither the United States nor Britain accepts that a direct link has been established between the 1991 war and the syndrome. *Reuters*

Bishops gagged on Yalung case

From page A1

in Porac on Thursday.

"I would only believe the reports when my own nephew calls me and admits it to me," he said. "For now, I don't believe it."

The bishop had not publicly confirmed the reports he broke his vow of celibacy.

Admits "errors"

Yalung's Jan. 5, 2003 letter, which he addressed to the parishioners and clergy in Antipolo, admitted merely to "errors" and "mistakes." He had not called his uncle or other close relatives to confirm the INQUIRER story.

According to Ricardo, the bishop, whom he calls Tom, grew up under the strict discipline of his mother Rosita. He recalled that she single-handedly raised her brood of four through dressmaking when her husband Cresenciano, Ricardo's younger brother, died.

Yalung, who was ordained bishop at 40, was then only 12 years old. He is the eldest of four children.

Reports said that in December, the bishop joined his mother in the United States where two of his brothers live.

To stop his fellow laity and relatives from inquiring about his nephew's whereabouts, Ricardo just told them that the bishop was "studying in Rome."

Ricardo said he went to Fr. Elmer Simbulan, Porac parish priest, to seek consolation and advice.

"Among Elmer was skeptical. He told me he couldn't believe it because Tom was '*masyadong banal* (too holy),'" he said.

But Ricardo said he was meeting the issue with "open eyes, open heart and with a lot of compassion." "If my nephew really did that, I would like to understand it from the point of view that priests are also human and like us in the laity, they also commit mistakes," he said.

"I hope incidents like this, if there was truth to it, would not diminish our faith in the Catholic Church. We are all humans."

In between his diocesan work in Manila or in Antipolo, Bishop Yalung would come home to Porac to visit his father's grave, get in touch with his close relatives or say Holy Mass at the Carmelite monastery in Angeles City, Ricardo said.

Ricardo said he would appreciate it if his nephew remained in the Church because it was within the institution that wayward priests could truly reform.

"We all need God's grace. We should not be separated by others from Him or break away from Him," he said.

No girl friends

Roman, Ricardo's son and the bishop's friend, also met the news with great disbelief.

"While we had friends who were girls, he distanced himself from them. He never courted anyone then. From (high) school (at the Holy Angel University in nearby Angeles City), he went straight to the Holy Rosary Parish (also in Angeles City) to do his duties as a sacristan. Often, he went straight to read his books," Roman, 51, said.

He said their classmates and friends had also pestered him about the alleged scandal, expressing apprehension about how the bishop was taking it.

"We are concerned about him but we could only pray for him and give him our understanding," Roman said.

Yalung's paramour reportedly gave birth last year. But those who know Yalung well swear that it is improbable for him to get mixed up with a woman, much less a "guest relations officer."

"To say that he got mixed up with a GRO is to say that he went to nightclubs. But this is so untrue because he wouldn't even go to a restaurant with a female parishioner in broad daylight," said a friend of Yalung.

A friend of of Yalung's alleged mistress called up the INQUIRER yesterday to deny that her friend was a GRO.

"She's a young woman who happened to fall in love with a bishop," said the caller, who introduced herself as a certain Annie Torres.

She said her friend was a "licensed medical technologist."

Torres added that the woman also did not ask money from Yalung because her family was well-off.

"They have many properties in the province. Her siblings are professionals," she claimed.

Torres also detailed Yalung's affair with her friend. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*

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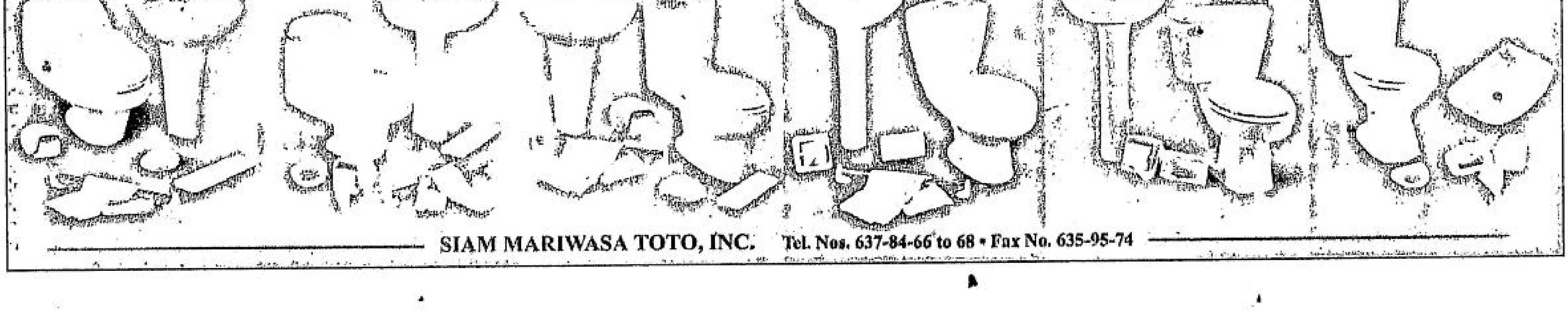

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Mother of 3 kids Army's 1st . . .

From page A1

She was formally appointed battalion commander on Jan. 16, upon the recommendation of Armor Brigade commander Col. Rodrigo Maclang.

Asked how she managed her family and career, the woman nicknamed Monette cited the support of her husband, Toyota executive David Go.

She said she was in constant touch with her husband and children—aged 5, 8 and 11—by cell phone. "They usually visit me during weekends," she said.

No surprise

Her new assignment came as no surprise for Go, whose immediate past post was deputy commandant of the Army General Staff College and who became the first female aviator of the Armed Forces in 1986.

Sources in the military noted that she had "always been No. 1 even in her schooling." They said that considering her training, it would not be far-fetched for her to in time become AFP chief of staff.

The Army lauded Go's appointment, saying it was part of the vision of Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling to give women officers an equal chance to compete with their male counterparts.

"It will be recalled that when [Camiling] was the commander of the Light Armor Brigade, he deployed female officers in combat units to show that women have the capability to handle delicate assignments," an Army statement said in part.

A native of Iloilo, Go took up chemistry at the Central Philippine University.

She joined the ranks of the AFP enlisted personnel in 1978, upon graduation from college. In 1981, she was commissioned as a second lieutenant after taking an officers' course.

Her career took off from there; she served as secretary of the joint staff of Gen. Fabian Ver and then as an aide-de-camp of then Army chief Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Canieso. When Canieso was subsequently appointed chief of the Nisa, she joined him as intelligence officer.

She went on to flying school and joined the Army's then newly organized Aero Scout Company.

In her 21 years in the Army, Go has received awards, including the Outstanding Achievement Medal, Military Merit Medals, campaign medals and numerous letters of appreciation and commendations.

Apart from these, she holds master's degrees in public administration and in development management from the Asian Institute of Management.

Civilians can't carry guns outside residence

From page A1

She said the issuance of permits would now be "limited only to ownership and possession of guns, not to carry them in public places."

"From now on," she said, "only the uniformed men in the military and authorized law enforcement officers can carry firearms in public places, and only pursuant to existing law."

The President also said civilian gun owners wanting to use their firearms for target practice would be given "special and temporary permits from time to time only for that purpose."

And even with these permits, she said, civilian gun owners "may not load their guns with bullets until they are in the firing range."

The current law bans the carrying of guns in public but allows exemptions for people holding risky jobs, such as judges, prosecutors, cashiers, doctors assigned in remote areas and those living under death threats.

These exemptions have allowed influential people, including politicians and movie stars, to carry guns wherever they go.

Sitting ducks

Dante Jimenez, a leader of the watchdog group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, described the gun ban as "double-edged."

"This will help minimize crime, but what about people like us?" Reuters quoted Jimenez as saying. "We have permits to carry guns because we have many enemies and we have received death threats. We would be sitting ducks."

A dismayed Demetrio Tuason, president of the Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers of the Philippines and a guest at the PNP anniversary celebration, hinted that he and other licensed gun owners would mount an appeal.

"We always support the initiative of the President. We shall, however, try to explain to her that this may open up the doors to all the criminal elements in the country, including the rebels, to take advantage of law-abiding citizens," Tuason told reporters.

But Reynaldo Pacheco, head of the advocacy group Gunless Society of the Philippines, said Ms Macapagal's directive was an important headway in crime prevention, and expressed hope that the government would have the "political will" to enforce it.

"That's a most welcome development in our campaign for peace and order," Pacheco said. "She has made a decisive action in getting the guns off the streets."

Licensed gun holders, many with permits to carry their weapons outside their homes, number 800,000.

At least 328,000 firearms, mostly handguns, are held by civilians without police authorization, according to government estimates.

The estimates do not include guns held by the 12,500-member Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the 9,000-member NPA, and smaller armed groups like the Abu Sayyaf bandit gang.

PNP 2920

In her speech, the President said the NPA would "find it more difficult to carry out their plots if our law enforcement agencies can rid themselves of rascals in uniform and also if we can enforce a gun ban in public places."

She did not elaborate on the NPA angle.

But she called on ordinary citizens to report A-Ba-Ka-Da cops through the police force's "Text PNP 2920" program, which she described as "a good reporting system against criminals and bad cops."

She said it was urgent to purge the PNP of misfits and undesirables "so we can further strengthen the public's faith in the uniform" and complement the "intensified drive to curb graft and corruption in the government." she said.

She added that additional training for the men and women in uniform would help instill professionalism in the police force.

The President also said the "key" to busting criminal syndicates was to go after policemen and members of the military who were in cahoots with lawless elements.

"The syndicates are often the same, whether [they are involved in] kidnapping or drugs," she said. "The key is to jail the rascals in uniform, the soldiers and police, whether active or retired, who are involved in the syndicates."

Ms Macapagal congratulated the PNP for the drop in kidnapping cases, elimination of several criminal gangs and accomplishments in the fight against terrorists.

She said she was "eagerly awaiting" the dismissal and prosecution of 32 police personnel facing dismissal proceedings and an additional 16 undergoing investigation.

Resistance

Licensed gun owners have resisted previous moves to curtail the rights of civilians to bear arms.

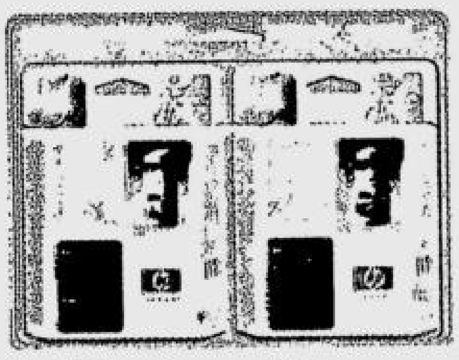
They argue that only criminals will have guns if the government does not allow responsible citizens to arm themselves. Instead, they advocate stricter screening requirements for those seeking permits to carry guns in public places.

But the President said: "We cannot disregard the paramount need for law and order, just as we cannot be heedless of our people's aspirations for peace."

Kintanar, a former chief of the NPA, was gunned down in broad daylight inside a restaurant in Quezon City. Police have yet to find his assassins but NPA spokesperson Gregorio Rosal said he was executed for his alleged sins against the communist movement.

Ebdane last week suspended the processing of PTCFORs pending review of the Firearms and Explosives Division's licensing system following an uproar over the road-rage killing of an Ateneo law graduate in Pasay City on Jan. 10.

Yesterday, he said he would meet with other police officials to immediately draw up guidelines to implement Ms Macapagal's directive. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Reuters, AFP*



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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Senate's Fil-fors probe gives hopes to veterans

By June Navarro

LOCSIN

NOLI Locsin, Bonel Balingit, and a handful of veteran players whose contracts expired at the start of the year have almost given up their PBA careers for good.

But the ongoing Senate investigation on the presence of alleged fake Fil-foreign players in the country has now transformed their bleak outlook to a promising perspective.

The Senate committee on games, amusements and sports headed by Sen. Robert Barbers is now zeroing in on the deportation of Fil-fors whose documents are being questioned.

In the coming weeks, a total of 25 Fil-fors will be probed by the Senate regarding their citizenship documents before the 2003 PBA season opens on Feb. 23.

On top of the Senate's list are Asi Taulava of Talk N Text, Ginebra's Eric Menk and James Wallkvist, Andy Seigle of Purefoods, Nic Belasco of San Miguel Beer and Shell's Chris Jackson.

If the Fil-fors are found guilty, they will be jailed at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation before being deported to their country of origin.

The moment it happens, veteran cagers whose contracts were not renewed by their mother teams could jump from inactivity and fill the void left by the fake Fil-fors.

With that, the likes of Locsin and Balingit, who at one time awed the crowd with their skill and talent, are bound to get another chance of playing in the PBA.

Also waiting to be tapped by teams after the crackdown on bogus Fil-fors are Bong Hawkins, Art Del Rosario, Ronald Magtulis, Nelson Asaytono, Jay Mendoza, Mike Mustre and Noynoy Falcasantos.

These guys have either accepted their fate as low-salaried cagers in the PBL or mere practice players.

Talented rookies Ariel Capus and playmaker Egay Echavez, cagers who failed to land in any team in the league, will also strengthen their bid to play in the PBA.

In another development, the Games and Amusements Board has required incoming Fil-foreign cagers to present their BID and DoJ documents before the GAB could issue a professional license.

The move of the GAB was also in keeping with the government's efforts to ensure the non-entry of ``Fil-shams" in the PBA.

MJC hosts Open race Sunday

MULTIPLE stakes winners Golden Ballet and Free Wind head the starry cast joining the first major stakes event this year when the Philracom Open Stakes race fires off at the San Lazaro Hippodrome this Sunday.

The P500,000 event, sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission, caps Manila Jockey club's five-day racing program and jumpstarts a month-long celebration that culminates with a grand sendoff card on March 2, the final day of racing at the historic San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The much-awaited all-comers showdown on Sunday will feature four outstanding local-breds battling two imported gallopers over a distance of 1,900 meters.

Last year's surprise Presidential Gold Cup winner Free Wind gets another crack at 2002 champion 3-year-old filly Golden Ballet in a race that may set the tone for this year's championship derby.

The two horses ran against each other in a Philracom Invitational Race on Jan. 12 and both were beaten by Lyonnais. Separately, however, both have recently scored convincing victories in group company as 4-year-olds.

Joining the hunt for the P300,000 top prize are Hyperbid, Perfect Storm as well as US-bred stablemates' Sunny Puddles and Sunny Contender.

The Philracom race highlights MJCI's weekend racing schedule of 26 races.

MJCI will be hosting nine races tonight starting at 5:45 p.m.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, the University of Visayas Green Lancers beat the University of San Jose-Recoletos Jaguars, 98-94, to sweep the Central Visayas regional students basketball championship at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. Also today in 1990, Palawan National High School defeated Basa Air Base Barangay High School, 3-1, to cop the Coke Go-For-Goal all-Luzon plum at the Burnham Park football field.

Pincay wins 9,500th race

ARCADIA, California—Laffit Pincay Jr. reached another milestone in his record-setting riding career, winning his 9,500th race.

Pincay, who turned 56 last month, rode Saxony to a one-length victory Wednesday in the fifth race and 35-1 long shot Brocky's Dream to a narrow triumph in the seventh and featured race at Santa Anita, giving him 9,501 wins in his career.

Pincay broke Bill Shoemaker's record of 8,833 victories on Dec. 10, 1999 at Hollywood Park, and rode his 9,000th winner in the California Cup Juvenile at Santa Anita on Oct. 26, 2000.

Pincay had gone winless in 15 races, including two Wednesday, since winning the first race at Santa Anita aboard Total Limit last Saturday.

"I've been trying to win a race every day for the last two weeks, and it seems like I've had a lot of seconds," he said following the fifth race. "But today, I finally got it."

Brocky's Dream, an Australian-bred 5-year-old daughter of Land Speed, beat Embassy Belle by a neck, with 5-2 favorite Brisquette another half-length back in the $65,000 allowance feature for older fillies and mares.

Brocky's Dream covered 6 1/2 furlongs on turf in 1:12 2-5 and, as the longest shot in the field of nine, paid $73.40, $26 and $10.40.

Embassy Belle returned $12 and $7.80 and Brisquette paid $4 to show. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO
BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Festive Charm 2. Space Crusader 3. Colonial Affair

Race 2--1. Major Leaguer 2. Hallmark 3. Crystal City

Race 3--1. Hinobaan's Pride/Head and Tall 2. My Prayer 3. Fire 4. Claro Di Ba 5. Wild Guess

Race 4--1. Alert One 2. Hong Kong Treasures 3. Ocean Menary

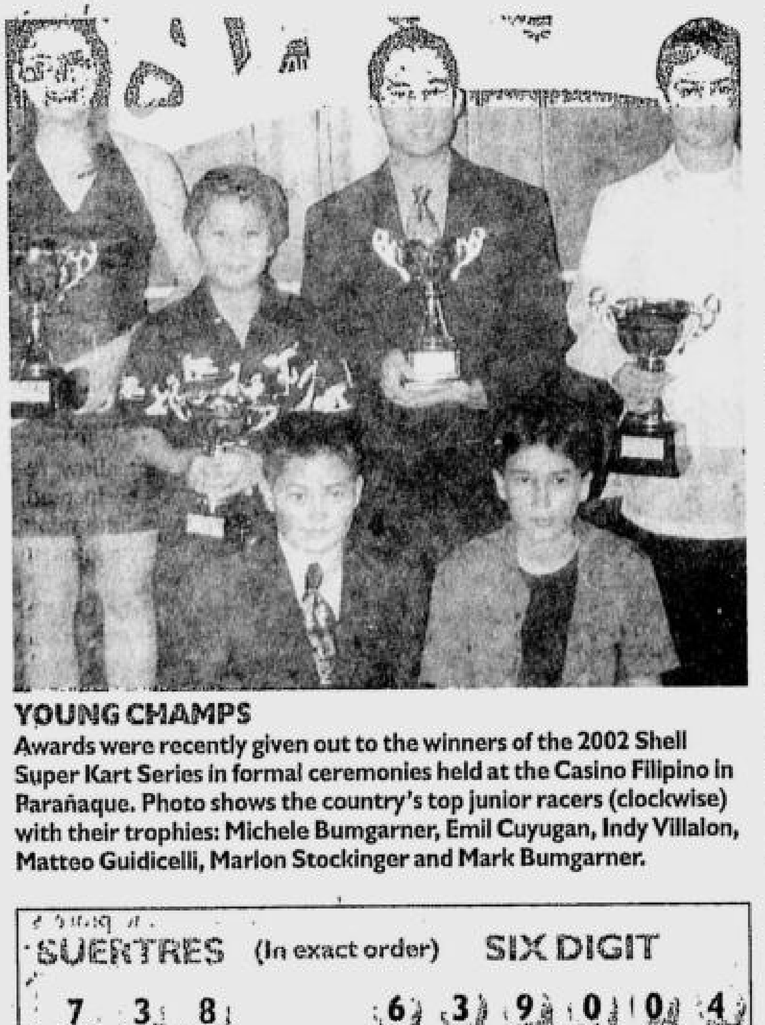
Race 5--1. Everybodyhappy 2. Gigi's Gold 3. Silver Cho Cho 4. Friendly Venture/Peek A Boo

Race 6--1. Shuttle's Magic 2. Great Hill 3. Morning After 4. Never Quit 5. Key to Heaven

Race 7--1. D' Optician 2. Something Silver 3. Tanging Ikaw 4. Steel Wheel 5. Picardy

Race 8--1. Stock Rising 2. Winning Prize 3. Better King 4. Trick Shot 5. True Mighty

Race 9--1. Notable 2. Modern Classic 3. Loose Cannon 4. Golden Disc 5. Houdini 6. Real McCoy



YOUNG CHAMPS
Awards were recently given out to the winners of the 2002 Shell Super Kart Series in formal ceremonies held at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque. Photo shows the country's top junior racers (clockwise) with their trophies: Michele Bumgarner, Emil Cuyugan, Indy Villalon, Matteo Guidicelli, Marlon Stockinger and Mark Bumgarner.

SUERTRES (In exact order)

7 3 8

SIX DIGIT

6 3 9 0 0 4

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

18 22 23 30 37 47

Jelena sparkles

TOKYO—Second-seeded Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia shook off a slow start Thursday to defeat Indonesia's Angelique Widjaja in the second round of the US$1.3 million Toray Pan Pacific tennis tournament.

Dokic came back from being down 5-0 in the first set at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium to defeat Widjaja 7-6, 6-4.

American Lindsay Davenport cruised to a 6-4, 6-4 win over Iva Majoli of Croatia to advance to the final eight. *AP*

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Filinvest Supermall Alabang,
Ayala Center Cebu,
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall,
PLANET SPORTS
Ayala Center Cebu,
Ayala Center Makati,
Metro Point Edsa-Taft MRT,
LCC Naga
Festival Supermall Alabang,
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Alimall Araneta Center Quezon City,
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The Podium Ortigas Center Pasig
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NBA CRACKS WHIP

Sloan, Indiana 'bad boy' suspended

NEW YORK--Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan was suspended seven games by the league for confronting referee Courtney Kirkland in the first quarter of a win at Sacramento.

The suspension was announced by National Basketball Association senior vice president of basketball operations Stu Jackson, who earlier Wednesday suspended Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest four games without pay.

With 2:36 remaining in the opening period, Sloan voiced his displeasure when Kings guard Doug Christie was not called for stepping out of bounds in front of Utah's bench.

Sloan confronted Kirkland along the sidelines, then shoved the referee on the right shoulder after apparently reacting to something Kirkland said to him.

Sloan was ejected, then had to be restrained by Jazz players and coaches.

Sloan will miss games against Portland, Golden State, at the Los Angeles Lakers, Dallas, Memphis, Houston and at Houston. He is eligible to return February 14 against Washington.

Artest was suspended for his confrontation with Miami Heat coach Pat Riley and for making obscene gestures to players, coaches and fans.

It is the second time this month that Artest has fallen foul of the NBA's disciplinary committee. Following a loss in New York, he smashed a TV monitor and camera and was handed a three-game suspension.

Artest's latest ban, announced by NBA senior vice president of basketball operations Stu Jackson, started with Wednesday's game against the San Antonio Spurs and run until Feb. 11, costing the player $66,000 in pay.

Tempers flared in the fourth quarter of Monday's 102-95 win over the Heat after Artest confronted Riley, taunted the Miami bench, fouled Caron Butler and made an obscene gesture toward fans.

"I want to apologize to the fans, especially to the kids," said Artest during a news conference at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

"(The gesture) was definitely not at the fans, it was toward the Miami bench. I don't want to say toward who but it was at the Miami bench."

The Eastern Conference leaders will miss Artest, rated one of the league's top defensive players, averaging 15.8 points, 5.5 rebounds and 2.07 steals per game.

"I'm not a hot-headed type of person," said Artest, who was also fined and ejected from a game with the Dallas Mavericks in December after fighting with Raja Bell.

"Sometimes I do things on the court that give them (referees) that impression.

"But it's not like I'm out there starting fights or trying to hurt anybody, I give you my personal word. I play with passion.

"After that, there's nothing else that I can say or do that will show you that I'm not that type of person on the court." *AFP, AP*

Mavs tackle Wolves

THE NBA's top team takes on the league's hottest team today (Jan. 31) when the talent-laden Dallas Mavericks tackle the streaking Minnesota Timberwolves live' at 8:30 a.m. on Solar Sports, with a replay at 9 p.m.

The Mavericks (35-9 win-loss) will be meeting the Timberwolves for the first time since sweeping them, 3-0, in the first round of the playoffs last April. That postseason failure marked the sixth consecutive time that the Timberwolves have fallen in the Playoffs' first round. Minnesota enters today's rematch with revenge on their minds and a league-best six-game winning streak.

The match also pits two of the NBA's premiere small forwards in Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas and Minnesota's Kevin Garnett. Nowitzki had 34 points yesterday as Dallas beat the Houston Rockets, 105-81. Garnettt lit up reigning NBA MVP Tim Duncan for 34 points on 14-of-17 field-goal shooting last Monday in a 106-95 Minnessota victory over San Antonio.

Rookie Challenge

Rookie Team

Carlos Boozer, C, Cleveland
Caron Butler, F, Miami
Gordan Giricek, F, Memphis
Drew Gooden, F, Memphis
Nene Hilario, F, Denver
Amare Stoudemire, F, Phoenix
DeJuan Wagner, G, Cleveland
Jay Williams, G, Chicago
x-Yao Ming, C, Houston
y-Emanuel Ginobili, G, San Antonio

Sophomore Team

Gilbert Arenas, G, Golden State
Tyson Chandler, F, Chicago
Pau Gasol, F, Memphis
Richard Jefferson, F, New Jersey
Andrei Kirilenko, F, Utah
Troy Murphy, F, Golden State
Tony Parker, G, San Antonio
Jason Richardson, G, Golden State
Jamaal Tinsley, G, Indiana
x-will not play; y-replacement

San Antonio trips Indiana, 106-97

INDIANAPOLIS--The San Antonio Spurs, with former MVP David Robinson back in action, scored a surprise 106-97 win over Indiana Wednesday to hand the Pacers only their second loss in 23 games at Conseco Fieldhouse.

Robinson, who had missed three games with lower back problems, counted 12 points in 24 minutes of action and was one of six San Antonio players in double figures.

Tony Parker led the Spurs with 28 points and Stephen Jackson added 18 points, 14 after the half.

Jermaine O'Neal topped the Pacers with 31 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. Reggie Miller chipped in with 19 points.

In Philadelphia, the Atlanta Hawks grabbed a 57-35 halftime lead and hung on to upset the 76ers 97-83.

It was only the fourth road win of the season for the Hawks.

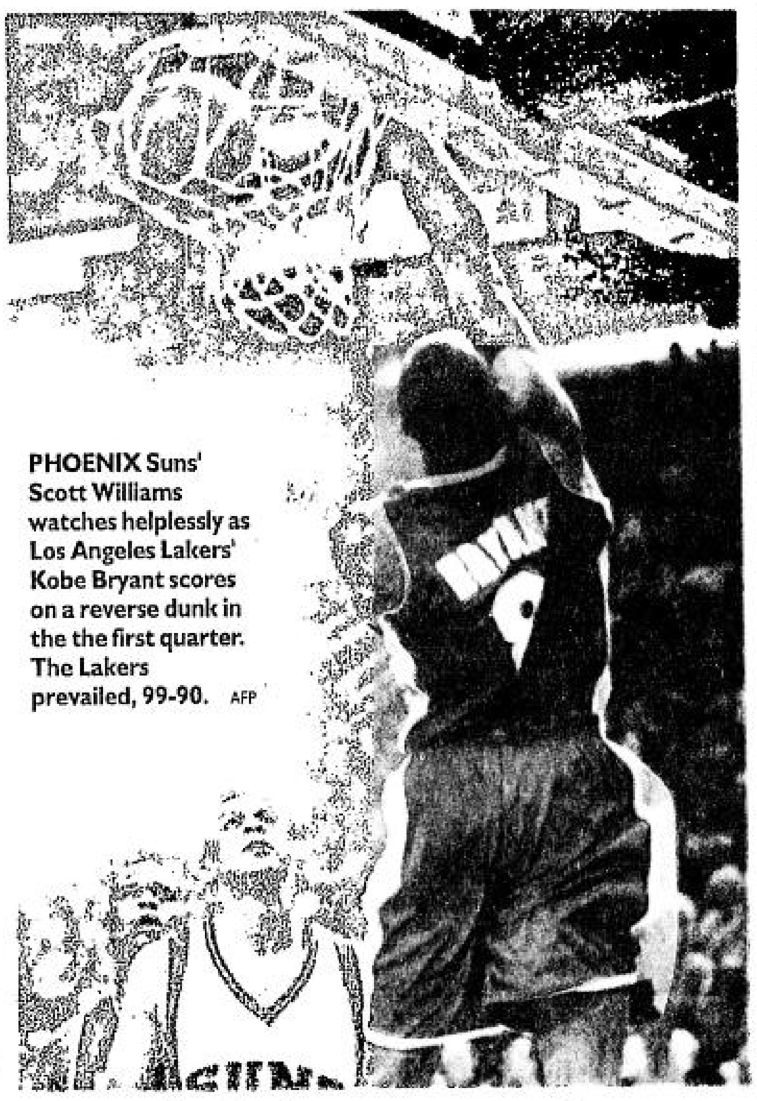
Glenn Robinson notched 33 points on 14-for-21 shooting and pulled down eight rebounds, while Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 20 points.

Allen Iverson paced the 76ers with 37 points while Eric Snow netted just 11 points for the Sixers but dished out 15 assists.

Philadelphia has now lost four games in a row at the First Union Center.

In Orlando, NBA leading scorer Tracy McGrady notched a game-high 31 points as the Magic outlasted the Cleveland Cavaliers 113-108.

Complete results:
Atlanta 97, Philadelphia 83; New Jersey 86, Washington 78; Miami 82, New York 80; San Antonio 106, Indiana 97; Orlando 113, Cleveland 108; Utah 95, Portland 71; Dallas 104, Houston 81; LA Lakers 99, Phoenix 90; LA Clippers 77, Chicago 75.


PHOENIX Suns' Scott Williams watches helplessly as Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant scores on a reverse dunk in the the first quarter. The Lakers prevailed, 99-90. AFP

Webber out for 3 weeks

SACRAMENTO, California--Sacramento Kings forward Chris Webber will miss at least three weeks with a sprained left ankle, the same injury that sidelined him for the first 20 games of last season.

An MRI test was negative Wednesday, meaning there isn't anything broken.

Webber is averaging 23 points, 10.5 rebounds and 5.5 assists for the Pacific Division-leading Kings.

He went up for a hook shot over Utah's Scott Padgett and appeared to come down on Padgett's foot in the second quarter of a 102-92 loss to the Jazz on Tuesday night. Webber limped off the court with help from two teammates with 10:33 left in the period and did not return. *AP*

PROUD CHAMP
Up and coming Ryan Francisco was named "Clubman of the Year" during the Shell Super Karting Series awards ceremony recently at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque. Francisco bagged the overall title in the Formula Intercon A Class of the 2002 Karting Series at the Carmona Circuit.

Pasay 5-cock derby unfolds tonight

A GRAND showdown of well-known cockers will unfold tonight as Pasay City Cockpit presents the bigtime 5-cock derby to be hosted by two-time international derby champion Jun Marasigan.

Afficionados can expect more than 60 quality fights from start to finish. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Complexor 3000.

"This derby is one of Pasay Cockpit's major events this year," said pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

The list of participants include Dicky Lim, Boy de Roca, William Co, Lito Orillaza, Sen. Ramon Revilla, OPMI president Vic Yu, Atty. Mario Antonio, Louie Cua, Commissioner Jun Sevilla, Joseph Chua, Romero Yu, Danny Ty, Tony Lasala, sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, Gov. Ito Ynares and Jun Santiago, among others.

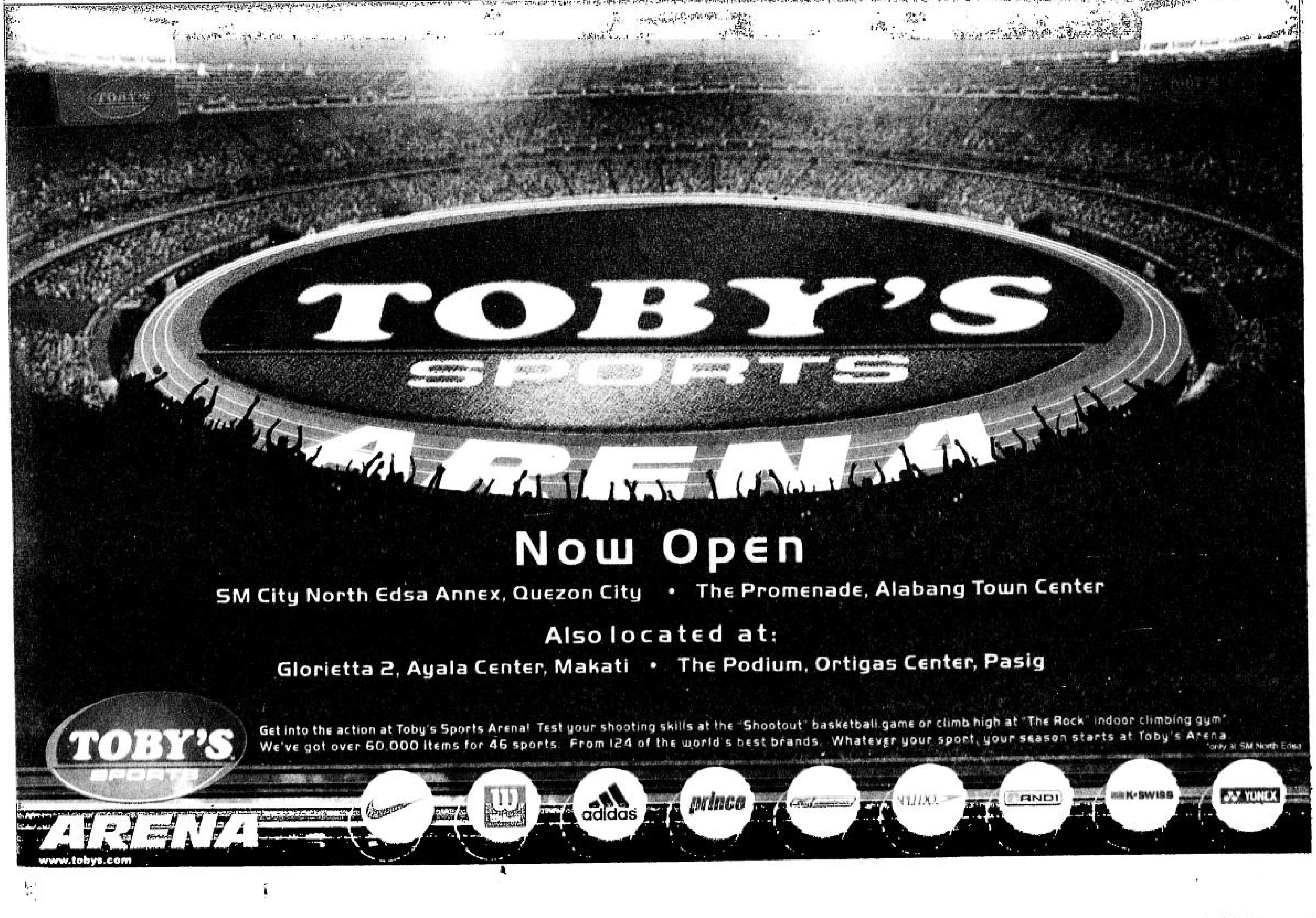
Submission of entries is today, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and participants may contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Meanwhile, another 5-cock derby is set at Pasay Cockpit on Feb. 7 and 8 with Dicky Lim as host.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Minnesota vs Dallas, 8:30 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.), Solar Sports, Sacramento vs Seattle, 11 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.), Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff, 8:30 p.m., Star Sports
POOL: World Pool League 2002 Finals, 1 p.m. (r), ESPN



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Rizal stadium still fit for Asian track—AAA

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DESPITE its age and size, the 70-year-old Rizal memorial track and field stadium is still fit to host the Asian athletics championships this September.

This was the assessment of the Asian Athletics Association secretary general Maurice Nicholas after conducting an inspection of the stadium's condition recently.

"If I'm to decide, I would recommend a total renovation, but if you want to save money, we can just make some minor repairs," said Nicholas before flying back to Singapore to make his report.

Nicholas said the track, which was built in 1993 when the country last hosted the Asian track meet, can still meet the standards with some works needed on lane 1.

"We are happy to receive that feedback because it means we don't have to spend too much repairing the venue," said athletics association president Go Teng Kok.

Go added that even if we don't have world-class venue, "we can compensate it with our efficiency in running the operations of the event."

Nicholas added that except for lane 1 which is already worn out, there is a need to scrub the whole of the 400m track to make it look like brand new.

Still, Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association secretary general Ben Silva-Netto said the private contractors who made it in 1993 are set to make requirement certification to the AAA.

Silva-Netto said the Rizal stadium, which can only sit 20,000 spectators, just needs to have additional working rooms for the estimated 1,000 athletes and officials from 44 nations.

He added that there is also a need to purchase at least two photo finish systems because the old one still uses films, which is already obsolete in other countries. "We need the kind that is video-based to accurately decide photo-finishes," Silva-Netto.

Likewise, Silva-Netto recommended new landing pits for pole vault and high jump and repairs on the throwing cages.

Thankfully, the scoreboard, which hasn't been functioning for more than five years now, is not a requirement during the Asian trackfest because it is just for the reference of spectators and media men.

"We don't have to spend money fixing it," added Silva-Netto.

San Miguel to rejoin PBL

By Dennis U. Eroa

BARRING any major hitch, league pioneer San Miguel Corporation will rejoin the PBL this year.

An Inquirer source yesterday confirmed that top-level talks between SMC officials and the PBL headed by commissioner Chino Trinidad and chair Dioceldo Sy are ongoing, ironing out kinks in the Beermen's re-entry to the league as they approaches their 20th year anniversary.

"Former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, SMC big boss, was the leading light when the PBL, formerly the Philippine Amateur Basketball League, started in 1983 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum," said the Inquirer source.

SMC, according to the insider, will use Viva Mineral Water in its return and will tap the vast collegiate player market, specifically the FEU Tamaraws.

Ateneo, in partnership with Hapee/Negros Navigation, shocked the favorites in winning the Chairman's Cup last year, before successfully ruling the UAAP wars.

La Salle also competes in the PBL, carrying the ICTSI banner.

Like the Eagles and the Archers, the Tamaraws, under coach Koy Banal, will use the PBL as training ground for the coming UAAP season.

The probable entry of FEU is good news for the league, which has just concluded the highly-successful Challenge Cup. Shark has already taken a leave of absence, while the status of John O is unclear.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Trinidad said the recent Challenge Cup won by comebacking Welcoat is the culmination of three years of hard work. The conference had attracted large crowds and made history by holding the first two games out-of-town.

Despite a 75, Rosal up by 4

MANOTOC: Needs to work hard today for a decent finish. PDI PHOTO

CANLUBANG—Abe Rosal fired a 3-over par 75 but still managed to hold a 4-stroke lead yesterday after three rounds in the 8th DHL-NGAP Amateur Open golf championships here.

The 40-year-old Rosal carded a three-day total of 212 to keep at bay second running Jay Bayron, who sizzled with a 69 for 216 in the event presented by DHL Worldwide Express and WWW Express.

Jerome Deliarte carded a 73 to slip seven strokes off the leader, while 2001 champion Juvic Pagunsan deteriorated with a 79 after two 71s in the first two rounds to post a 221 with Marvin Dumandan, who had a 74.

Dave Hernandez shot a 71 for 223, a stroke ahead of Jonald Rates (78), while Junjun Plana (225) carded a 77.

Veteran campaigners Iggy Clavecilla and Tommy Manotoc were virtually out of contention after turning in identical 77s.

Clavecilla was at 232 in a tie with Paul Miñoza, who came back with a 72 after shooting an 81 in the second round.

Manotoc failed to recover from his 78-79 to total 234.

Lina de Guzman had a 74 to cling to a one-stroke lead in the ladies division with 154, barely holding off Heidi Chua, who had a 72 for a 155 aggregate.

Lora Roberto hobbled home with an 83 and remained four strokes off De Guzman with 158 in a tie with Carmelette Villaroman.

Anya Tanpinco (159) was a stroke further with an 81, while Lucy Landicho hit a 79 for 161.

Louie Advincula shot a 77 after his first-day score of 75 to lead the seniors' division with a 152 total, five shots clear of Oscar Soriano who had a 79 for a 157 total. Tito Eusebio shot his second straight 80 for third at 160.

Tourism tilt Jan. 31

THE PHILIPPINE Tourism Cup, the biggest-ever amateur tournament in Philippine golf history organized by the Department of Tourism, kicks off its Southern Tagalog qualifying round this January and February.

The PTC is a 12-month long nationwide golf tournament which will go around virtually every region in the Philippines where there are attractive golf courses.

For inquiries, contact the PTC secretariat at 536-1133 and 523-8411 to 20 loc. 183.

Bill Shaw on today

THE 14th annual Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic, the member-guest invitational of Wack Wack presented by Samsung, gets going today with a big field of 185 teams disputing prizes worth more than P2 million.

The hitting of ceremonial balls by Comelec chair Ben Abalos, Wack Wack chair, and Tonichi Tuason, chair of the sports and games committee, yesterday ushered in the 36-hole tourney at Wack Wack's East and West courses.

A Toyota Camry, two Mitsubishi Lancer GLS 1600s and a Yamaha cart top a grand package of prizes.

They will be awarded to players who score aces on designated holes.

The father-and-son pair of Angel and Robert Concepcion will be defending the overall title in the 36-hole event backed by the First Gentleman Foundation, Inc., Golforce, Custom Clubmakers and Unilever Philippines as major sponsors.

Hole sponsors are Caltex Havoline, Splash, Pacific Paint &Oil Mfg., Citra Metro Tollways, Synergymed, PLDT, PCSO, Beauty Exponents, PICP, Gema Coco Food Corp., Matsushita Phils., GG&A Club Shares, lawyer Gilberto Duavit, Immuvit Multi-Vitamins, Standard Chartered Bank, Del Monte, GNC, Gatorade, Pacsports, Forest Hills, Air Philippines, Discovery Suites, The South Spa, Nestle Phils. and The Plaza.

Two different formats ensure an exciting battle for the overall title and division honors as well as the Ladies Bill Shaw competition. Those assigned to tee off in the east course will play the scramble format while teams in the west side will be playing the aggregate mode.

Also coinciding with the final round tomorrow of the Bill Shaw is the grand finals of the Samsung Putting Challenge (not today as reported earlier) where a brand-new car and appliances are also at stake.

Sandal Bida!
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Cheer dancefest kicks off Feb. 7

THE FIRST inter-school cheer dance competition will be held on Feb. 7 at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines gymnasium in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission together with PUP President Ofelia M. Carague will lead the opening ceremonies.

Ali Atienza, head of the Sports and Youth Development Committee of Manila will also grace the activity.

Sixteen elementary schools in Manila will participate in the competition hosted by the PUP College of Physical Education and Sports in cooperation with the Cheerleading Association of the Philippines.

The cheer dance routine will run for five to seven minutes, including the entrance and exit. It will include dance, gymnastic skills and pyramid building. Competing groups will be judged according to choreography, execution and audience impact.

La Salle UAAP tennis champ

DE La Salle won the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) women's tennis title via a six-game sweep last Sunday at the Rizal Sports Center outdoor courts in Pasig City.

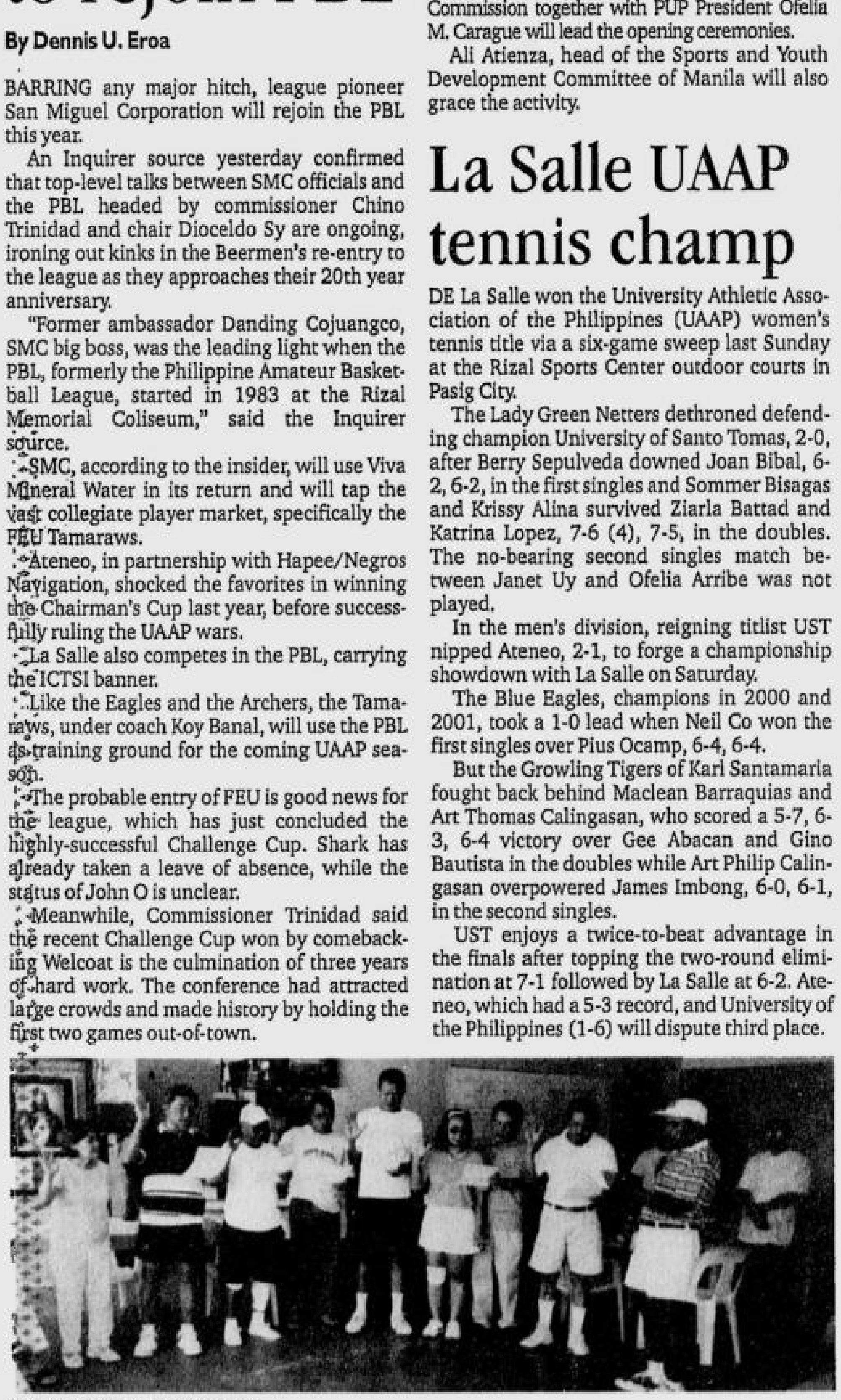
The Lady Green Netters dethroned defending champion University of Santo Tomas, 2-0, after Berry Sepulveda downed Joan Bibal, 6-2, 6-2, in the first singles and Sommer Bisagas and Krissy Alina survived Ziarla Battad and Katrina Lopez, 7-6 (4), 7-5, in the doubles. The no-bearing second singles match between Janet Uy and Ofelia Arribe was not played.

In the men's division, reigning titlist UST nipped Ateneo, 2-1, to forge a championship showdown with La Salle on Saturday.

The Blue Eagles, champions in 2000 and 2001, took a 1-0 lead when Neil Co won the first singles over Pius Ocamp, 6-4, 6-4.

But the Growling Tigers of Karl Santamaria fought back behind Maclean Barraquias and Art Thomas Calingasan, who scored a 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Gee Abacan and Gino Bautista in the doubles while Art Philip Calingasan overpowered James Imbong, 6-0, 6-1, in the second singles.

UST enjoys a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals after topping the two-round elimination at 7-1 followed by La Salle at 6-2. Ateneo, which had a 5-3 record, and University of the Philippines (1-6) will dispute third place.



TENNIS INDUCTION

Lawyer Pol Petralba (second from right) acts as inducting officer to the new set of officers of BF Homes Parañaque Tennis Club 2003-2004 headed by Dante A. Aquino, President (second from right) of the Naia-Bureau of Immigration held at the Tennis Club House. Others in photo (from left) are Bel Ferraren, treasurer; Dodong Romanillos, chair, membership committee; Joe Albaniel, club manager; Rey Fernandez, sports director; Ronnie Arbis, director, ways and means; Baby Po, secretary; Felipe Neri, vice president and Fr. Pete (extreme right), the officiating priest.

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JAN 31, FRIDAY 912-8275

Casas regains 2-shot lead; Salvador tumbles to 2nd

DEL MONTE, Bukidnon—Cassius Casas shot a 3-under-par 69 to grab a 2-shot lead with one round left in the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit eighth leg here.

As erstwhile leader Elmer Salvador struggled with a wild driver all day, Casas kept his steady touch off the tee to turn in his third straight score in the 60s and wrest back the leadership with a 14-under-par 202, including rounds of 64 and 69.

Casas, 36, bucked a double bogey on the seventh but that was the only stain in his round in the tourney bankrolled by San Miguel Beer and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo with WG&A Super Ferry as the official carrier.

A day after tying the 10-year-old course record of the eminent Frankie Miñoza of 10-under 62, Salvador didn't make himself look as good.

His driving going from bad to worse, the title-hungry Salvador could only make a single birdie--from 24 feet on the fourth hole.

He had three bogeys for his 74 and a 204 total for 54 holes.

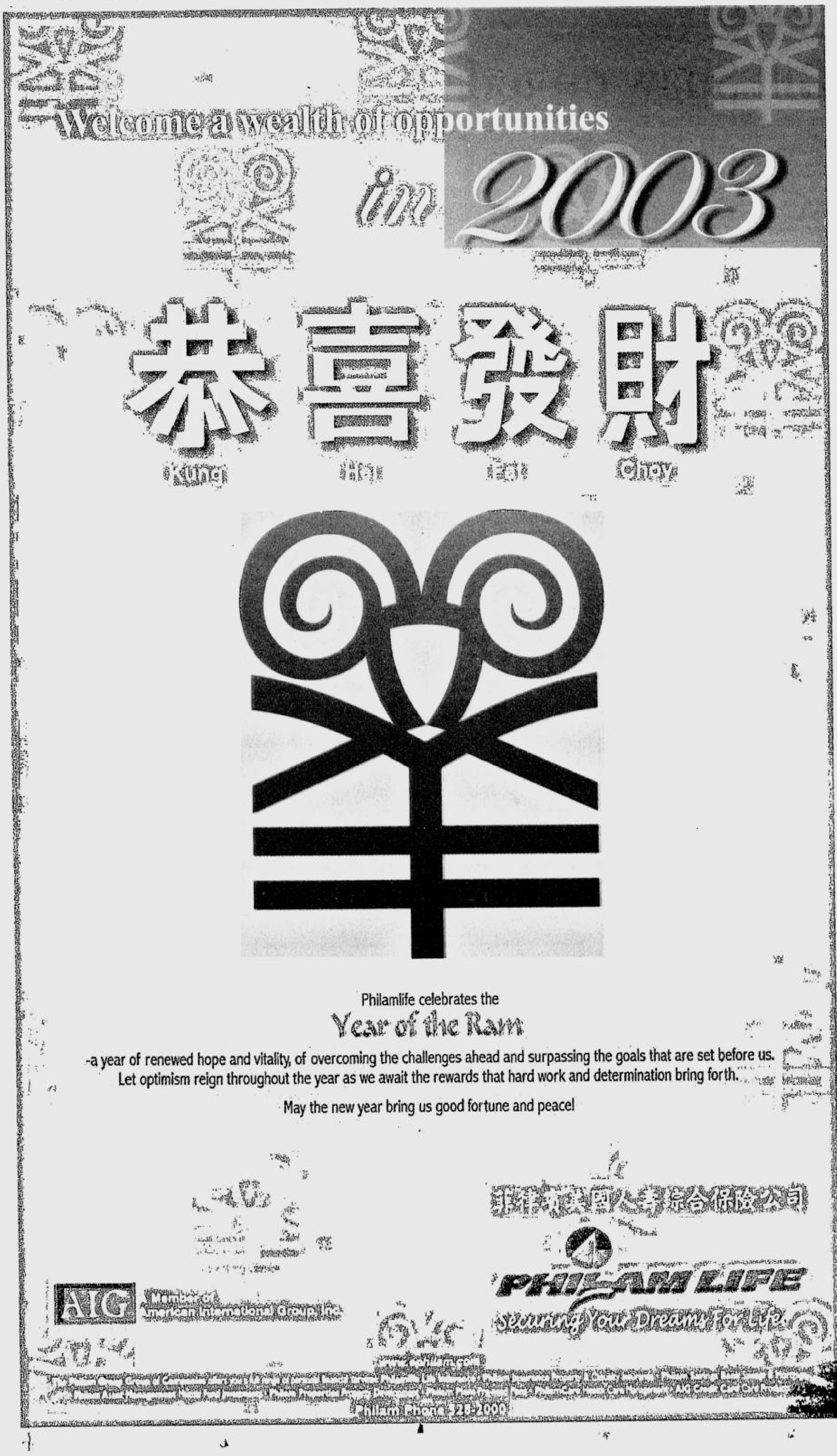
Amateur Romeo Jaraula stole the show by scoring one of two 67s and moved into contention as he stood tied for third place at 206 with Rey Pagunsan who put himself in the best chance to end a two-year title drought with a 71.

There were again 13 players who broke par, keeping a low-scoring trend that makes the tourney organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines, Inc. as one of the best in recent years.

Casas believes he is ready to reverse his losing trend.

"I'm very confident with my swing and I really hope to finally become the winner tomorrow. It's still anybody's game but I'm glad to be giving myself a chance to get it," said Casas, the Wilson pro who ruled the second leg at Sherwood Hills.

CASAS: Playing with vengeance. PDI PHOTO



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Wack Wack scraps ₱17-M tournament

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the scheduled P17-M Wack Wack Philippine Open Golf Championship and the Wack Wack Board of Directors on Wednesday decided to cancel the event in "disgust over the threat of the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) to go to court over Wack Wack's move of incorporating the term 'Philippine Open' in the title of its tournament.

In a press statement, Wack-Wack said the NGAP considers the use by Wack Wack of the term "Philippine Open" as improper and claims that it is the "lawful property of NGAP."

On May 7, 2002, Wack Wack registered the tournament title "Wack Wack Philippine Open Golf Championship" at the Intellectual Property Office.

The statement said the NGAP registered "Philippine Open" only on Oct. 24, 2002, and the two titles are not really the same, no matter how one looks at them.

Chair Benjamin Abalos had earlier told Rod Feliciano, NGAP president, that the NGAP can have it.

Said Abalos: "While the position of Wack Wack is legally strong, we want to avoid dragging the Club into a court battle. We have other priorities. We only wanted to help for the love of golf."

Excerpts of the statement of S.P. Malbarosa, Wack Wack general manager:

"The NGAP served as the withholding tax agent of the 86th Philippine Open, but up to now, we have not been informed if they have already remitted to the BIR the amount of P758,814.77, which they withheld from the winnings of the participants. We wrote them several times about this, because the Mandaluyong RDO was trying to collect from us. Malbarosa also said that Wack Wack has remitted to the BIR P1,554,287.61, representing the withholding tax the Club collected from the winnings of the 87th Philippine Open held in March 2002.

"Immediately after the last Open, we started planning the Wack Wack Philippine Open, partly with encouragement from the Asian PGA. Unfortunately, all our efforts to help our local professionals, and even NGAP itself, will now go to naught.

Feliciano: No word war with Mr. Abalos

ROD Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, yesterday said the NGAP Board was not out to stop the Wack Wack tournament that Wack Wack had allegedly scheduled next month. *(See related story above.)*

"We do not intend to engage Wack Wack in a word war," said Feliciano. "All we were asking them, through Wack Wack president, Mr. Ben Abalos, was for them to refrain from using the term 'Philippine Open' in their tournament because the 'Philippine Open' has always been the property of the NGAP."

Feliciano reiterated that it was the NGAP's policy to rotate the hosting of the Philippine Open to member-clubs of the NGAP.

"For us to allow Wack Wack to use the 'Philippine Open' would mean we are surrendering NGAP's legal rights over the 'Philippine Open'," said Feliciano. "We could not agree to that as it would be unfair to our member-clubs, which have as much right as Wack Wack to host the Philippine Open, too, as has been our practice in the past."

In a move that stunned the golfing world, Wack Wack announced a while back that it would stage the "Wack Wack Philippine Open," with its perennial partner NGAP out of the picture.

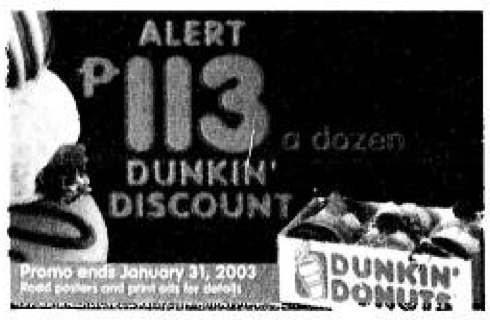
Feliciano questioned WackWack's move, saying it would amount to infringing "on the intrinsic right of the NGAP to stage the Philippine Open."

He said the NGAP will never prevent Wack Wack from holding a tournament for as long as "it does not use the 'Philippine Open' in its event.

"In fact, we appreciate Wack Wack's planned tournament and we fully support it, except that the 'Philippine Open' should not be attached to it," said Feliciano. "Any tournament held by any other club that offers money prizes will be for the good of our pros and the NGAP will always support it."

Feliciano also said he was surprised by Wack Wack's allegation over alleged unremitted funds to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"We have not received any letter from the BIR to that effect," said Feliciano. "The allegation was completely out of order. But as I said, the NGAP board does not wish to engage neither Mr. Abalos nor Mr. Malbarosa in a word war. I wish them well in their endeavors to stage tournaments at Wack Wack."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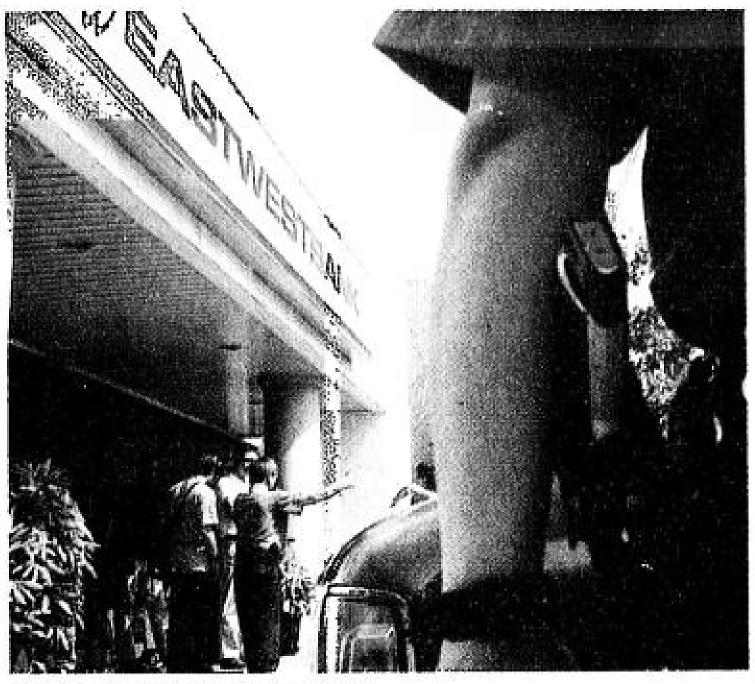
Pandacan oil depot stays

City council yields to Palace pressure



GONE IN THREE MINUTES
Bank officials and security guards of EastWest Bank cannot tell the authorities just how much money was lost in the daylight robbery which took the robbers all of 3 minutes to execute (see story on page A26). JOAN BONDOC

By Jerome Aning

BOWING to Malacañang pressure and the looming threat of war in the Middle East that could affect oil supply and prices, the Manila City Council yesterday voted to extend for another three months the operation of three big oil firms at the Pandacan fuel depot.

Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna, the presiding officer, declared the extension resolution approved after no councilor objected to its provisions.

But opposition aldermen Bernardio Ang and Nelissa Beltran later stood up and explained they had actually abstained from voting.

Many majority councilors, however, expressed their displeasure at Malacañang's intervention because they claimed they were forced to reverse their earlier stand for the removal of the depot.

Caltex, Shell and Petron will be given special business permits effective until April 30.

But they are still required to reduce their operations by dismantling storage tanks, erecting a buffer zone, and setting up a common distribution facility, in accordance with an understanding they reached with City Hall last year.

Mayor Lito Atienza endorsed the extension during a caucus with aldermen earlier in the

OIL/ A26

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No color-coding for 3 weeks

By Leila Salaverria

BEGINNING Monday, Feb. 3, the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program, more popularly known as the "color-coding" scheme, will be suspended for a trial period of three weeks, ending on Feb. 21.

The UVVRP will not be implemented in all towns and cities in Metro Manila, with the exception of Makati. The scheme also won't be enforced on the whole stretch of Edsa, C-5 and South Superhighway, including those areas passing through Makati, according to a Metro Manila Council Resolution passed yesterday.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who presided over the council meeting, said the suspension of the UVVRP is meant to check whether or not traffic in the metropolis could be managed even without the scheme.

"We're very much concerned about the scheme's inconvenience to the public," he told reporters yesterday, adding that surveys have shown that only a 4.5 percent reduction of vehicles has been achieved through the scheme. He said there is a growing public clamor for its abolition, and noted that some families have even taken to buying two vehicles to circumvent the program.

The council noted in the resolution that the various transport infrastructure projects that brought about the implementation of the UVVRP in 1996 have since been completed, thus making a review of the scheme necessary.

The suspension could also pave the way for more traffic violation apprehensions, according to the MMDA chair. He said traffic enforcers used to be so intent in catching UVVRP violators that they tend to overlook other violations.

Fernando said Makati refused to lift the scheme because of concerns over the large volume of vehicles that pass through the city, which houses the country's foremost business district.

Fernando also told reporters yesterday that for the UVVRP to be permanently scrapped, all the roadways of the metropolis must be used. To ensure this, all sidewalk obstructions must be removed so that pedestrians could use the sidewalks again.

Towns and cities in the perimeter areas of Metro Manila, like Marikina, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, do not see the need for the scheme, he said. On the other hand, Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan and other cities might opt to keep the UVVRP because they are the areas where the most number of vehicles drive through.

Gun belongs to Abdulrahman

BALLISTICS test results yesterday bared that the gun used in the killing of Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas was licensed to primary suspect Bashir Abdulrahman.

NBI experts working on the case said the gun, a Taurus 9-mm., belonged to Abdulrahman, now the subject of an intensified police manhunt.

Abdulrahman is believed to be holed up somewhere in Pampanga, after he reportedly sneaked out of Palawan.

Philip Tubeza

Robbers hit EastWest bank

FOUR men yesterday hit the EastWest Bank on the corner of Congressional and Mindanao avenues in Barangay Toro, Quezon City, police said.

Investigators said the robbers, young men in their 20s and clad in casual attire, arrived on board a maroon Toyota Tamaraw FX with no license plates.

When bank guard Frank Gatan accosted the suspects to check their bags, the men pulled out their guns and disarmed the guard.

One of the suspects saw bank officer Joseph Esteban holding a bag containing money to be loaded in the automated teller machine. The robbers took the bag from Esteban and immediately fled.

A. Donato

First, it's BF's life; now it's his job that is threatened

By Christian Esguerra

FIRST, his life. Now, his job.

Militant groups yesterday launched a nationwide signature campaign to demand the ouster of Bayani Fernando as public works secretary and as Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair.

The demand for Fernando's ouster came days after Malacañang had announced that he was among the targets of the New People's Army for allegedly oppressing squatters and illegal vendors.

The militant groups, led by the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap and Anakbayan, hope to gather at least one million signatures that will later be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo as supposed proof of the public outrage over Fernando's actions.

"It's time for Fernando to go," said Kadamay president Carmen Deunida. "He's destroying our lives with his ruthless programs."

Around 200 residents of Theresa Street and nearby areas in Sta. Mesa, Manila, threw their support behind the signature drive, according to Kadamay officer Yolly Alcantara.

Aside from the MMDA's hard-nosed sidewalk clearing operations, the impending displacement of around 20,000 families in March also prompted urban poor groups to call for Fernando's expulsion.

The militant Sanlakás said a total of 70,000 families would lose their homes to give way to the rehabilitation of the northern line of the Philippine National Railway.

The National Housing Authority yesterday promised to provide squatters with new houses, health and education benefits, and livelihood assistance.

But NHA general manager Edgardo Pamintuan clarified that "housing packages and other options shall be based on the availability of government resources and the acceptability and affordability to target beneficiaries."

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What is Inulin Fiber?

Inulin Fiber is a natural soluble fiber extracted from organically-grown vegetables and, therefore, not genetically modified. Experts rule out that this wonder fiber contain technological properties and surprising nutritional benefits.

They cite that **Inulin** is a dietary fiber not digested in the stomach or small intestine. However, because it is completely fermented in the colon, it contributes to a better gut function, improves regularity and reduces constipation.

Inulin is selectively fermented by Bifidobacteria, and helps boost the total number of these micro-organisms present in the colon. Bifidobacteria are known to have a number of beneficial effects on our health.

Because **Inulin Fiber** passes through the upper gastro-intestinal tract intact and is selectively fermented in the intestines, it causes a sensitive change of the microfloral composition of the colon.

Nutritional Benefits

Enriched **Inulin Fiber** (or Inu-Fiber) has three key nutritional benefits:

– It increases calcium absorption. This active ingredient supports the body growth of your kids by helping increase bone density and improving calcium uptake. It helps them build stronger bones for the rest of their lives.

– It stimulates good internal function. This active ingredient stimulates the growth of helpful bacteria that stimulates the good functioning of your kids. It is a well-deserved food with a built-in treasure of essentials your children need to build up their digestive resistance.

– It energizes the body and the mind. This active fiber really works for an energetic and balanced body functioning ensuring a healthy body going with a healthy mind.

In essence, **Inulin Fiber** helps to improve the bone mineral density, support a healthy gut and stimulates beneficial bacteria to the body.

Food Applications

Having confidence in the health benefits of **Inulin Fiber**, food manufacturers all over the world have begun to reap these benefits as a showcase of social responsibility.

Inulin Fiber is now used in a wide range of product categories such as spreads, biscuits, yogurts, bakery goods, dairy drinks, and processed meat products.

Health experts rule that a person needs to have an intake of 20 to 35 grams of fiber a day. According to a World Health Organization report, almost everyone in the world eats less than the recommended dietary allowance of fiber.

Most Asians do not traditionally include fiber-rich foods in the breakfast menu, while most Asian children have great cravings for rice and processed meats in their morning meals.

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) notes that a well-nourished child is healthy, strong, and alert, has good disposition, and grows at a normal rate. A poorly nourished child exhibits sluggish if not permanently delayed physical and mental development.

Experts recommend: Serve food with **Inulin Fiber** to your kids and put them on the roadmap to better growth and development.

Paging the cops and Bayantel

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ROMEO Reyes Yumang, a poor family driver, was hit and killed by two racing vehicles in Sta. Mesa, Manila in the early evening of Jan. 19.

A dead man can't complain. So police sat on the case. Maybe it was the most convenient thing to do.

The victim was buried on Wednesday. On the eve of his interment, the victim's wife, obviously out of desperation, saw Philippine Basketball League commissioner Trinidad to seek assistance.

***

Trinidad, both amused and frustrated, could just shake his head. The morning after, he issued an appeal to authorities and the public over radio station dzBB.

The plate numbers of the vehicles involved in the fatal accident were also published in the INQUIRER Metro section yesterday.

Our reporter, Christian Esguerra, burned the lines trying to establish ownership of the two vehicles.

Based on a Land Registration Office information, MJJ 811, the plate of one of vehicles, was a special issue; while the other plate, GDL 116, was issued in Cebu.

It's sort of hazy, but we're not giving up. We hope to identify these reckless killers.

The police should actually be chasing after these speed maniacs. They had been provided the plate numbers.

Unfortunately, our over-fed street cops have obviously adopted a new motto for the public: if you don't want to die, don't cross the street.

***

My *kumpadre* Fred Lumba, a fellow newsman, did not have to cross a city street.

But he claims he's being victimized by Bayantel which charged him for services he had not availed of.

Lumba said he had his Bayantel line disconnected last Dec. 26.

But the phone company charged him for services rendered after the disconnection date. He was even being required to report to the Bayantel office. The phone firm refused to entertain explanations over the phone.

Rued my *kumpadre*: "Here's a situation where a big company, in its infancy, begged for business patronage to help it grow but then turns its back on loyal customers when the going gets tough."

Fred said he would never go to the Bayantel office. *Baka ma-sagasaan*.

Oil depot stays

From page A25

day, after Energy Secretary Vicente Perez and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez warned him about the consequences of the closure.

Atienza said the security of Pandacan remains his administration's priority. He said the area is actually more secure now because the oil firms had decommissioned several tanks.

The council agreed to Malacañang's position that the depot's closure at this point could affect oil supply and prices, especially with the looming war in Iraq.

But Ang reminded his colleagues that they should still stick to their original stand to kick out the depot sooner or later.

A majority councilor, Juan Miguel Cuna, said the oil firms did not play fair after they asked Malacañang to intercede.

Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. said that unless the oil depots were removed, the residents of Pandacan would live in "constant terror" because their lives and property would not be safe.

The Big Three oil firms said pump prices could go up by as much as P2 per liter if Manila City Hall decided to close down the Pandacan oil depot.

With Ronnel Domingo

Kilabot ng mga Kriminal! Magbabalik na!

John Malkovich directs his first film

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FILM buffs note that many popular movie stars go on to direct a film at some point in their careers. After being handled by some of the best filmmakers working in the movies, they pick up enough moviemaking savvy to want to turn directors themselves.

It's a tempting step to take because, while stars make the most money, directors are supposed to be a cut above other film workers, the captain of the ship of cinema, etc. For prestige, nothing beats becoming a director.

It's also a great way to assert yourself on the film scene. Most actors have to execute what their directors tell them, so there comes a time when they yearn for greater independence and clout, and find that in direction, which gives them the psychologically satisfying prerogative of telling everybody else what to do, for a change!

So, many stars end up directing a film at least once in their lives. Unfortunately, directing is much more demanding and exhausting than acting, so most stars who turn director do so only once, after which they wearily realize that acting is a much easier way to make more money!

There are exceptions, of course, like **Jodie Foster, Mel Gibson, Woody Allen, Clint Eastwood** and **Barbra Streisand**, stars who have directed their share of movie projects and have won acclaim in the process.

It is to this group that this year's batch of freshman stars-turned-directors want to belong.

Topping the list of new filmmakers is the well-regarded actor **John Malkovich**, who has impressed everyone with his crackerjack performances in films like "The Sheltering Sky," "Dangerous Liaisons," "Beyond the Clouds," "Miles from Home," and "Places in the Heart."

Malkovich has had a great time essaying all those challenging roles, but he recently up and directed "The Dancer Upstairs," scripted by Shakespeare. —No, not **William Shakespeare** (more's the pity), but **Nicholas Shakespeare**.

Malkovich's first movie is described as "an ambitious political drama of considerable scope, reminiscent of Costa-Gauras seminal 'State of Siege'." Other new directors would be so lucky to get such a ravishing capsule review!

James Mottram supplies more details: "Malkovich's film is inspired by the capture of guerilla leader **Abimael Guzman** above a ballet studio in Lima, Peru, in 1992, when his terrorist movement, Shining Path, had almost brought down the government.

"Shakespeare's narrative centers on fictional versions of the real players: **Agustin Rejas (Javier Bardem)**, an idealistic lawyer turned policeman in charge of finding the elusive **Ezekiel (Abel Folk)**, a student of Kantian philosophy masterminding a revolution.

"Malkovich is more concerned with the shady morality of the government and the nature of individual corruption with terrorism. In addition, the director's decision to have his actors speak in English enhances the sense that the political dilemma depicted is universal."

The critical verdict on "The Dancer Upstairs"? **Leslie Felperin** sums it up: "Malkovich's directing debut is an impressive piece of filmmaking. He's smartly true to Shakepeare's novel, but the film has more wry wit than the book and a better-drawn cast of supporting characters. The revelation of the final trump card stands as one of the best cinematic climaxes of the year."

All that heady praise can go to director Malkovich's head! More to the point, we wish that it will instead inspire him to plan his next movie—and the one after that. Clearly, director John Malkovich is here to stay.

Eddie Murphy in two films

Comedy star **Eddie Murphy** topbills two movies that are coming to local screens during the first half of Film Year 2003. First to show is "I Spy," with Murphy playing a boxing champion who finds himself on a top-secret mission to retrieve a very advanced stealth bomber stolen by a treacherous arms dealer. His agent-partner is portrayed by **Owen Wilson**.

This June, Murphy also stars in "Daddy Day Care." When his character loses his job in product development, he's forced to become a stay-at-home father. He then opens his own day care facility, and resorts to some unconventional and hilarious methods to care for children.

His day care is an instant success, which launches him into a funny rivalry with a tough-as-nails character played by **Angelica Huston**, who has driven all previous competitors out of business.

On Star Movies

"My Best Friend's Wedding" with **Julia Roberts** on Saturday, Feb. 8. "Kiss of the Dragon," topbilling Jet Li, on Sunday, Feb. 9.

"Double Team" with **Jeanne-Claude van Damme** and **Dennis Rodman** on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

"Threesome" with **Lara Flynn Boyle, Josh Charles** and **Stephen Baldwin** on Friday, Feb. 14.

"City of Angels," starring **Nicolas Cage** and **Meg Ryan**, on Saturday, Feb. 15.

"Final Fantasy: The Spirit Within" on Feb. 16.

"Crazy/Beautiful" with **Kirsten Dunst** on Sunday, Feb. 23.

Celebrities grace 'Magnifico' premiere

FAMILY AFFAIR. Barretto sisters Gretchen and Marjorie (left) join the Martinez clan with "Magnifico" lead star Albert Martinez, son Alfonso, daughter Alessandra, wife Liezl and eldest child Alyanna.

MAGNIFICENT TRIO. "Magnifico" director Maryo J. de los Reyes (center), lead star Albert Martinez and interior designer Tessa Prieto Valdes.

SARI-SARI COUPLE. Ricco Ocampo (right) and Tina Maristela (left), with Martinez and Valdes.

ART AND FASHION. Valdes with model Phoemela Barranda.

PREMIERE NIGHT TROOPERS. (from left) INQUIRER executive Dennis Valdes, model Raya Mananquil and events organizer Tim Yap.

Music, prose at UST

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas will hold a multi-art concert, "Sound in Words, Sound in Chords," 4 to 7 p.m. today at the Colayco Park, UST Campus, España, Manila.

Organized by the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies, with the university's Public-Alumni Affairs Office and Conservatory of Music, the concert is part of the yearly "Cultural Nights at the Colayco Park."

To read verses are musician-poets Lourd de Veyra, Michael M. Coroza, Ramil Digal Gulle and Rebecca T. Añonuevo, all junior associates of the UST-CCWS.

Musicians of Conservatory of Music will also play.

The event is open to the public. Call 731-3101 loc. 8281 for inquiries.

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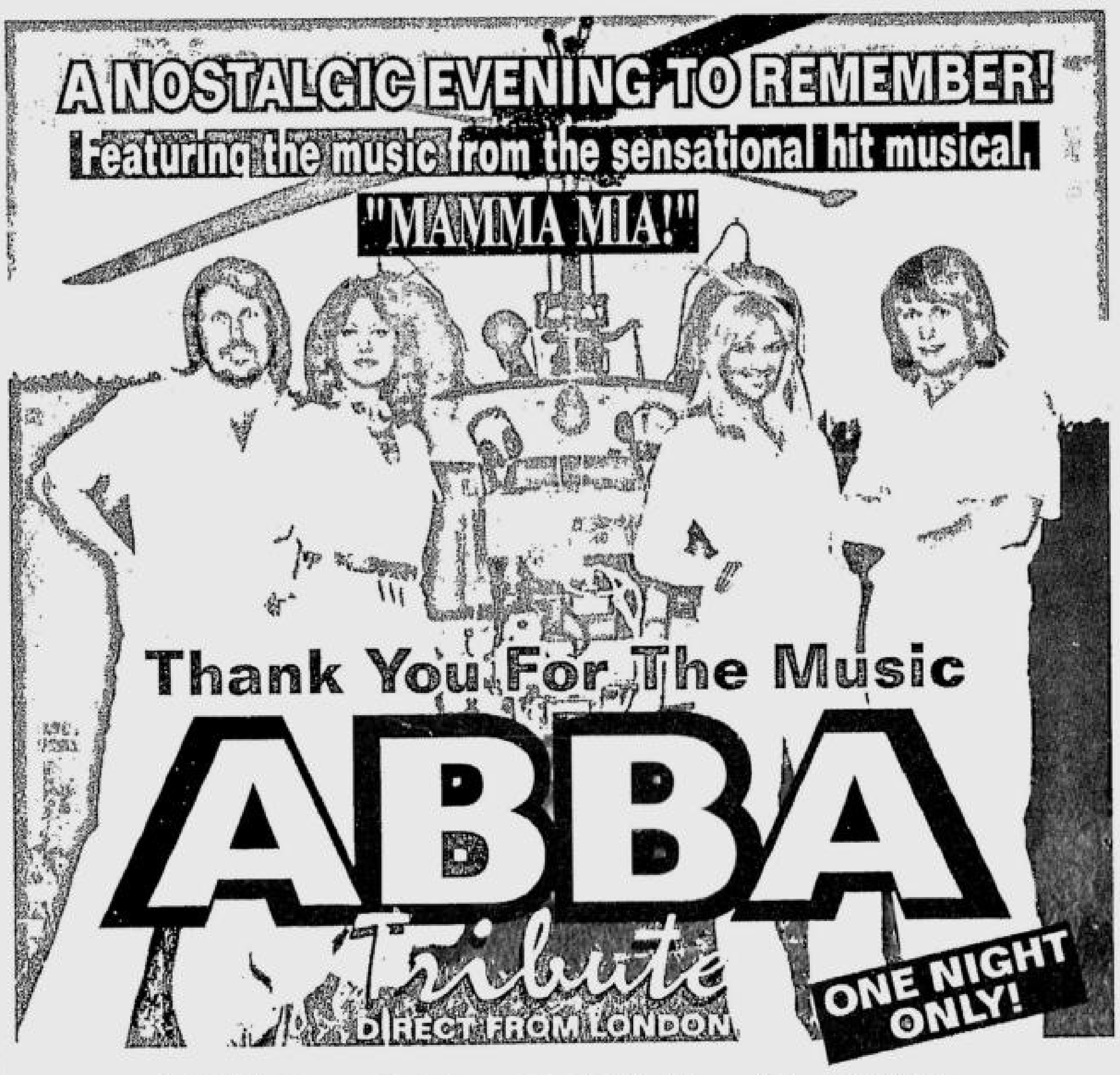

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Will Patricia be censored in Folk Arts Theater show?

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

PICTURE this: Sexy star **Patricia Javier** doing a shower scene in a waterfall specially constructed on stage, undressing before the audience or figuring in a passionate bed scene with a hunk.

If that sounds unthinkable to happen in a live performance stage, think again.

Patricia assures she will do everything in her one-night show, "Rated PJ: Too Hot To Handle," Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater.

She is out to tease and send the crowd, especially the male population, into a tizzy. She is bent to create a stir and make a mark with her one-woman show.

"A sexy star like me seldom gets this kind of opportunity," Patricia asserts. "Only the likes of **Regine Velasquez**, **Martin Nievera** or **Pops Fernandez** hold concerts in big venues like the FAT.

"In the States, singers like **Madonna**, **J-Lo**, **Kylie Minogue** and **Christina Aguilera** go sexy in their performances. I will do a similar act in my show."

Patricia, who was initially noticed for her acting, discovered last year that she could sing so she decided to hone her talent. With the help of her manager **Jessica Rodriguez**, Patricia even took up voice lessons under jazz diva **Kevyn Lettau** in Los Angeles.

She made her live performance debut in a solo show at Dish at Rockwell's Power Plant mall.

Not too long after, Patricia inked a recording contract with EMI Philippines, which released her solo album, "PJ Secrets."

Patricia's acting has taken a backseat to her singing career, but the sexy star has no regrets. The last film she did, however, was a comedy flick for Viva Films, "AB Normal College," which will be shown also on Feb. 12.

"I'm too excited to do the FAT show because I consider it as an achievement in my show biz career," Patricia says. "I want to concentrate on my singing. It's something that I also want to improve on."

Every song in Patricia's show will feature her in a special production number, with a total of 15 costume changes. Her wardrobe will be provided by Jag, which she endorses, as well as by her designer friends **Bong Lazo** and **Eddie Badeo**.

It will be a veritable display of beauty and brawn onstage, as Patricia will be joined by hunks **Christian Vasquez**, **Jon Hall** and **Marc Nelson**, her erstwhile boyfriend. Upcoming Hollywood rapper **London** will also guest in the show.

"I'm not a great singer," Patricia unabashedly admits. "For people to notice me, I have to do my own gimmick. With the title alone, the audience can really expect Folk Arts to sizzle."

With musical director **Lorrie Illustre** and concert director **Joy Alonzo**, Patricia will dish out a repertoire loaded with dance ditties by Jennifer Lopez, **Janet Jackson**, **Shakira** and Kylie Minogue.

Patricia's FAT show was conceptualized by new concert producer **David Lao** of Prelude Entertainment.

"Jessica gave me Patricia's CD and I listened to it," David shares. "I discussed the concept of the concert with her before we talked to Patricia."

David mounted his first production last December, with **Ai-Ai de las Alas**' show at Le Pavillon in Roxas Boulevard.

As soon as he signed up an artist for his concept concert, David made sure he spares no expense to present a grand production with Patricia's show.

"I always believe that what should be done and what is needed in a show should be there," David explains. "It's hard to say that this show will start a trend. But what you see in foreign concerts, you will also witness in this show."

Snooky and FPJ?

READER **Sid Reyes** of Paco, Manila thanked me for the feature on **Snooky Serna** (Showbiz Tidbits—(12/16/2002).

"It was gratifying to read about her again. She has been missed too long and her recent comeback, albeit only on TV, enlivens show biz."

Reyes is undoubtedly a Snooky fan. He even shared interesting trivia about Snooky's show biz career. He pointed out Snooky occupies a niche in Philippine movie history, not only as a child superstar of the '70s, but also as the premier teenstar of the '80s.

"She is presently one of our sterling actresses with genuine starglow in the tradition of **Gloria Romero**, **Susan Roces** and **Boots Anson-Roa**," Reyes wrote.

"In fact, many of our leading men today got their foothold in movies as Snooky's partners. They include **Gabby Concepcion**, **Albert Martinez** and **Richard Gomez**. **Miguel Rodriguez** entered show biz as Snooky's leading man. Even **Edgar Mande** and **Emilio Garcia** went through the same route.

"**Christopher de Leon** played Snooky's husband in one of her best performances in 'Kapag Napagod ang Puso,' directed by **Maryo J. de los Reyes**.

"Snooky headlined the **Aga Muhlach** action-drama for Regal Films, 'Joey Boy Munti,' as she was **Mother Lily Monteverde**'s lucky charm who always starred in the first episode of many a Regal trilogy.

"I remember **Lloyd Samartino**, **Eric Quizon** and the Hawaiian import **Tom Babauta**, among others, as Snooky's partners, as well.

"**Tirso Cruz III** and the late **Eddie Rodriguez** played opposite Snooky in a couple of mature performances. Even **Ace Vergel**, **Lito Lapid** and **Phillip Salvador** starred with her in action pictures.

"We would love to see Snooky in a movie with action king **Fernando Poe Jr.**, preferably in a romantic-adventure or a historical epic, as Snooky's ethereal beauty is perfect for both genres.

"This fan would like to request Mother Lily to release again two of Snooky's biggest hits—'Rosa Mistica' and 'Lilac'—on video at least via Cinema One on ANC.

"It was said that the late director **Lino Brocka** had great plans for Snooky and just before his demise, he conceptualized projects for her. We hope other directors and producers today would tap Snooky's talent for the big screen again."

Inspired by Beckham

FOOTBALL superstar **David Beckham** may be far from being an actor. But he inspires the British teen comedy, "Bend It Like Beckham," which tops the lineup of cinematic gems in the ongoing UK Film Festival.

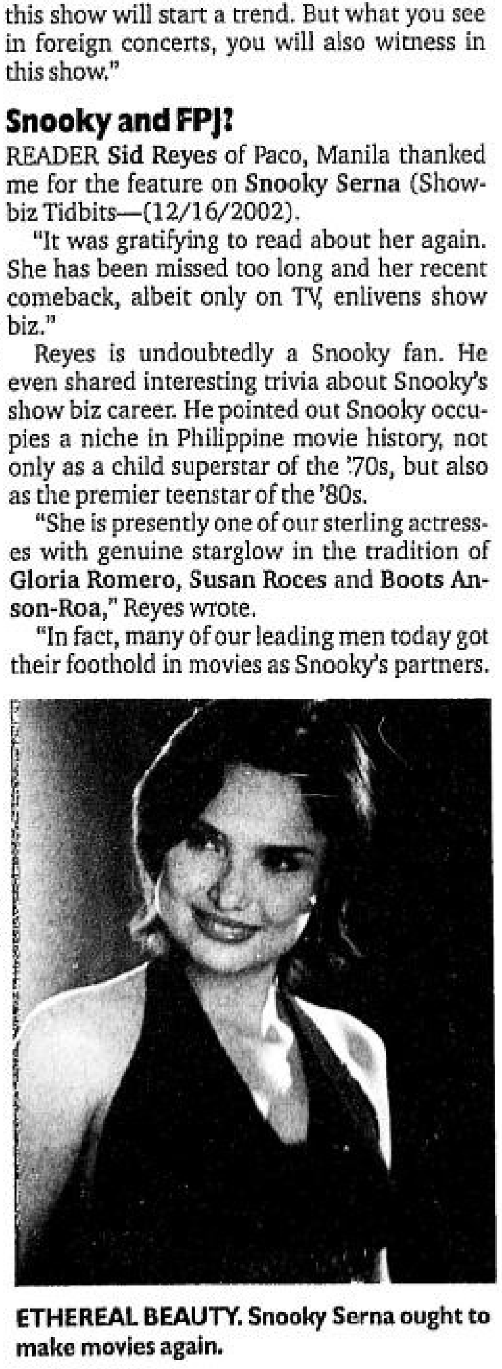
The film is about two 18-year-old girls who are both great football players. They can bend the ball like, you guessed it, Beckham.

Other films to be shown in the festival are "Born Romantic" and "Divorcing Jack."

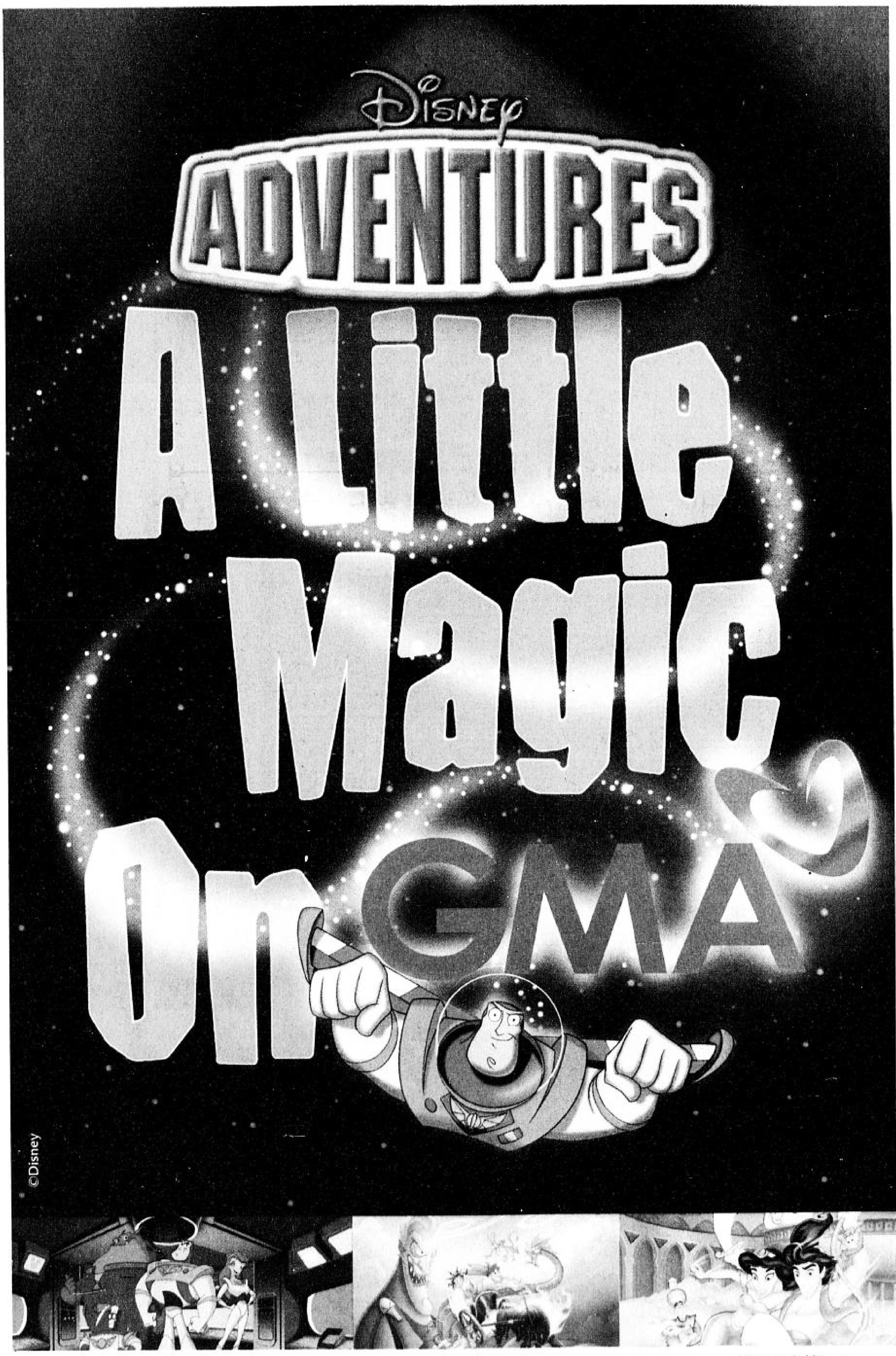
The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) al-

WILL/ A30

"RATED PJ": Patricia Javier is "Too Hot To Handle."



ETHEREAL BEAUTY. Snooky Serna ought to make movies again.



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Disney's Hercules
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Disney Adventures

Disney's Aladdin
Saturdays, 8.30am
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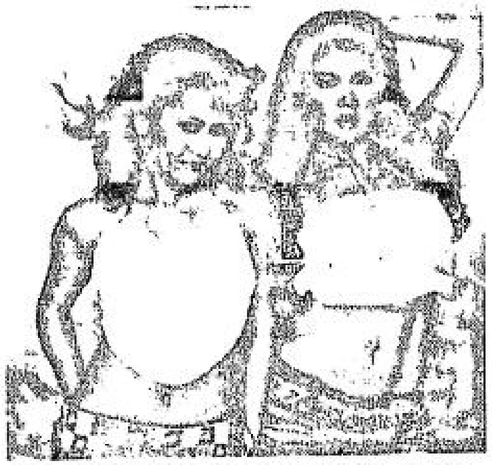


COMMON PASSION FOR SINGING. Rachel Alejandro (left) and Geneva Cruz

Rachel, Geneva at Aliw Theater

RACHEL Alejandro and Geneva Cruz pair up for a live performance at 9 tonight at the Aliw Theater, Star City Complex, Pasay City.

The free concert is part of the Manila Broadcasting Company's series.

Sharing a unique friendship, Rachel and Geneva have the same passion for singing, with a string of hit songs to their credit.

The MBC concert series at Aliw Theater has been the venue for the country's top entertainers who include Gary Valenciano, Jolina Magdangal, South Border, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Rey Valera, Rico Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Kuh Ledesma, Freestyle and Side A.

Will . . .

From page A29

so included a selection of TV materials like the comedy "Absolutely Famous," the documentary "Walking With Dinosaurs," the classical drama "Pride and Prejudice" and the animated feature "Wallace and Grommit"—all to be shown at the British Council Information Center.

The festival runs until Feb. 4 at Shangri-La Plaza Cinema.

Kind assistance

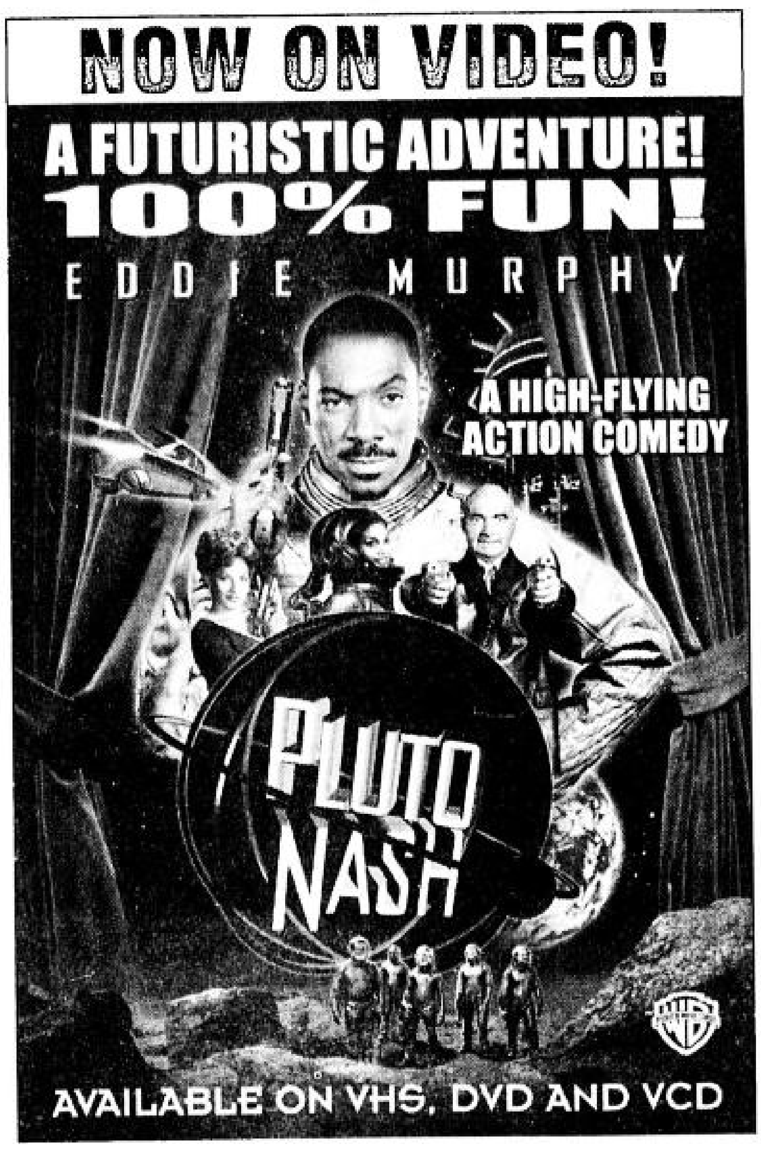
THANKS to Land Transportation Office-Las Piñas chief **Joselito "Bogs" Luarca**, for the kind assistance given to me and my companion in renewing our car registration last Wednesday.

The computers at LTO-Las Piñas bogged down that day, so it was taking forever for the employees to process everything manually. The movement of the papers from one window to another was really sluggish, so the number of people waiting on the benches was increasing by the minute.

Luarca stepped into the scene and helped speed up the registration process.

He laments that their computers bog down almost everyday, so the workload gets heavier. But unlike other LTO branches which put off work for the day when the computers don't function, Luarca says he always insists that his people do the work manually so there will be less backlog.

It helped that the LTO chief is a relative of INQUIRER sports writer **Roy Luarca**, so the connection was easily established when we asked for the former's help.



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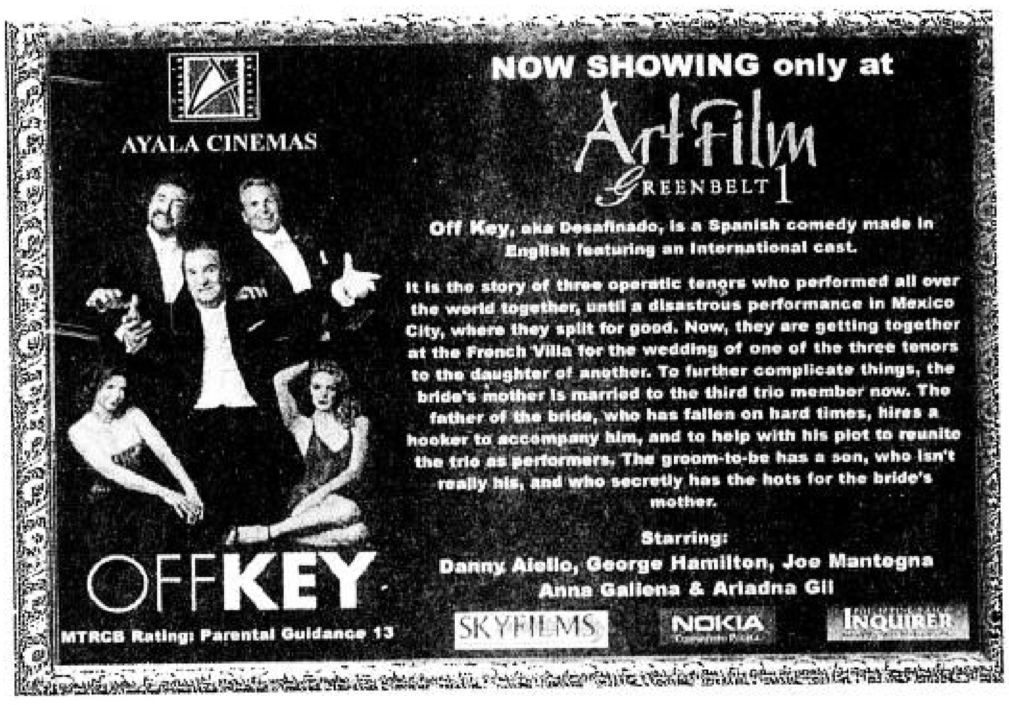

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Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.
It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.
Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil
OFFKEY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
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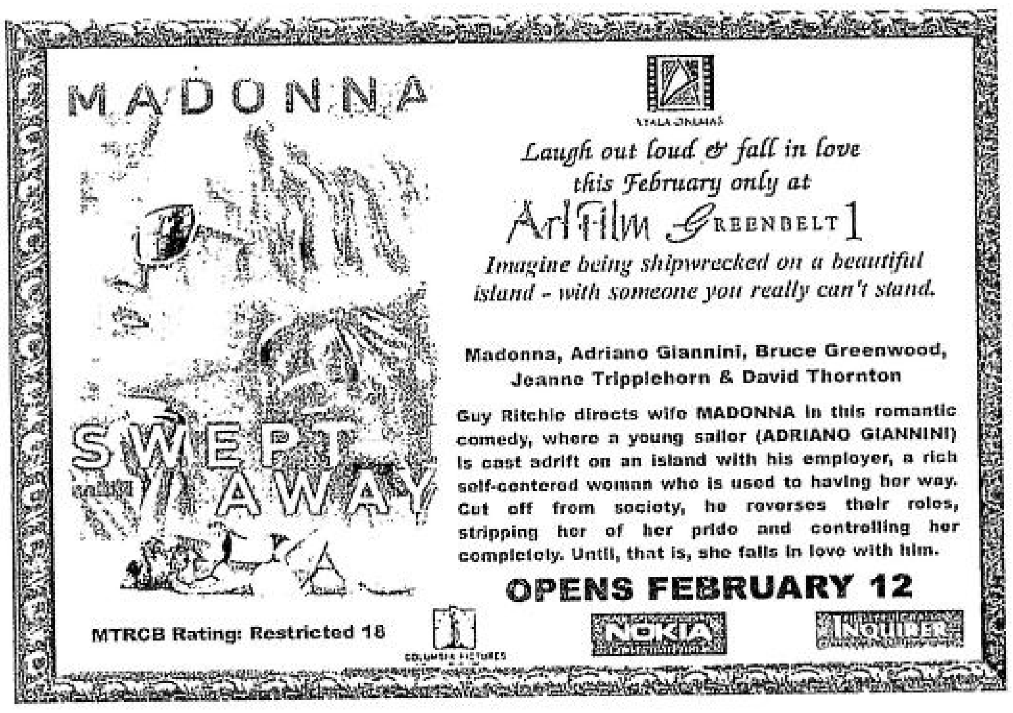

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Imagine being shipwrecked on a beautiful island - with someone you really can't stand.
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Guy Ritchie directs wife MADONNA in this romantic comedy, where a young sailor (ADRIANO GIANNINI) is cast adrift on an island with his employer, a rich self-centered woman who is used to having her way. Cut off from society, he reverses their roles, stripping her of her pride and controlling her completely. Until, that is, she falls in love with him.
OPENS FEBRUARY 12
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18
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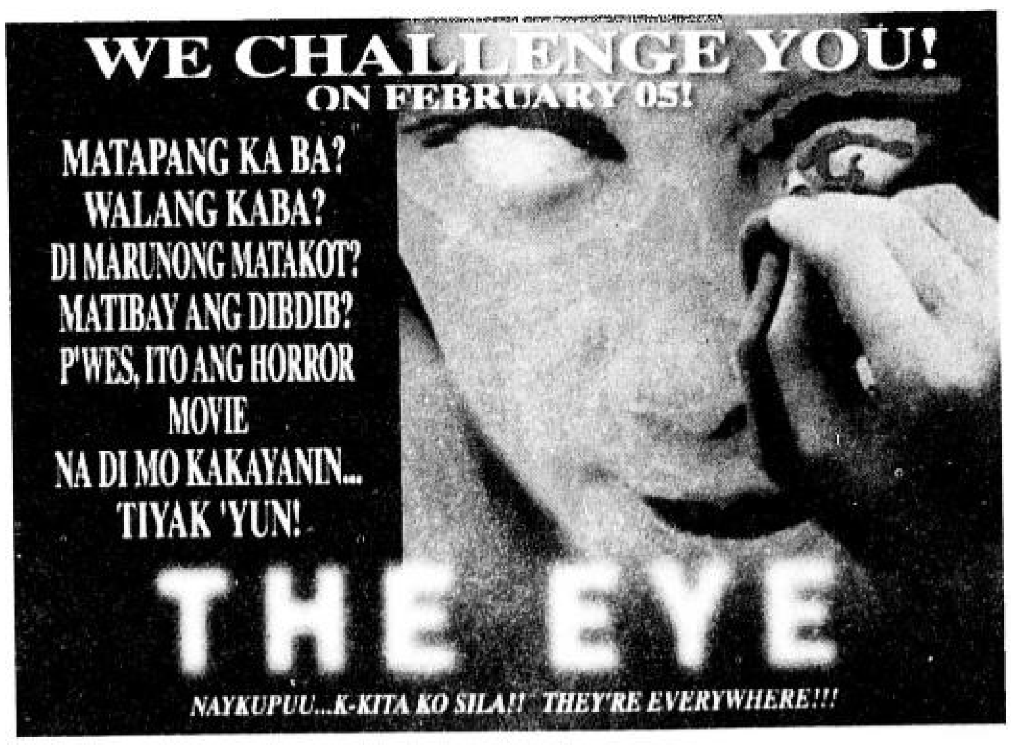

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leonardo dicaprio tom hanks
"It's a tribute to Spielberg's gifts as a director of suspense...a wonderful film."
Premiere Magazine - Glenn Kenny
"The nicest movie you could ask for...a gently funny, sweetly adventurous film that makes you feel genuinely good..."
Time Magazine - Richard Schickel
"Spielberg has forged Hanks and DiCaprio into a beguiling, exuberant movie."
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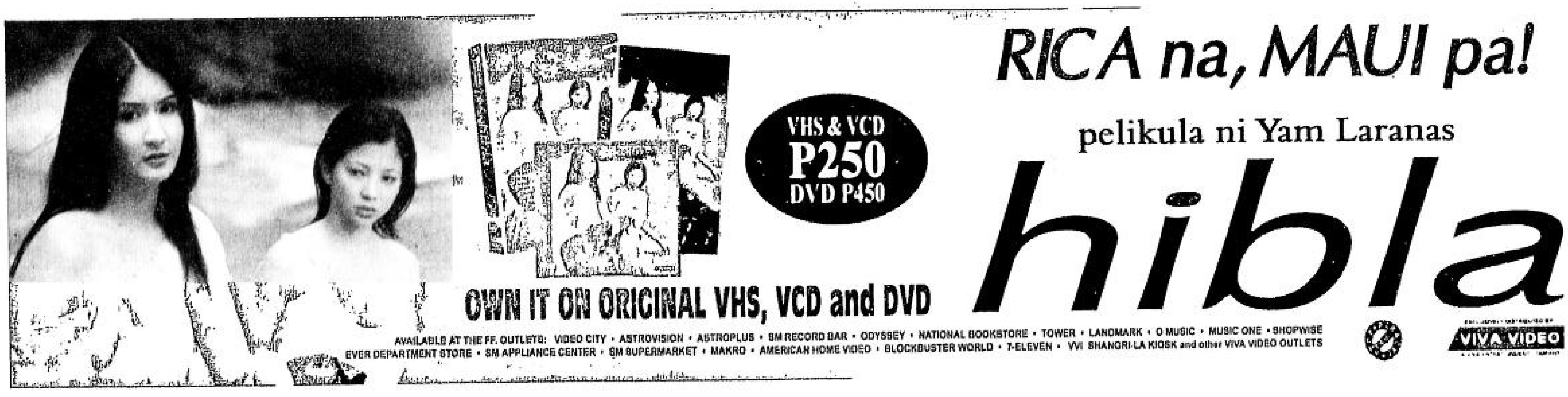

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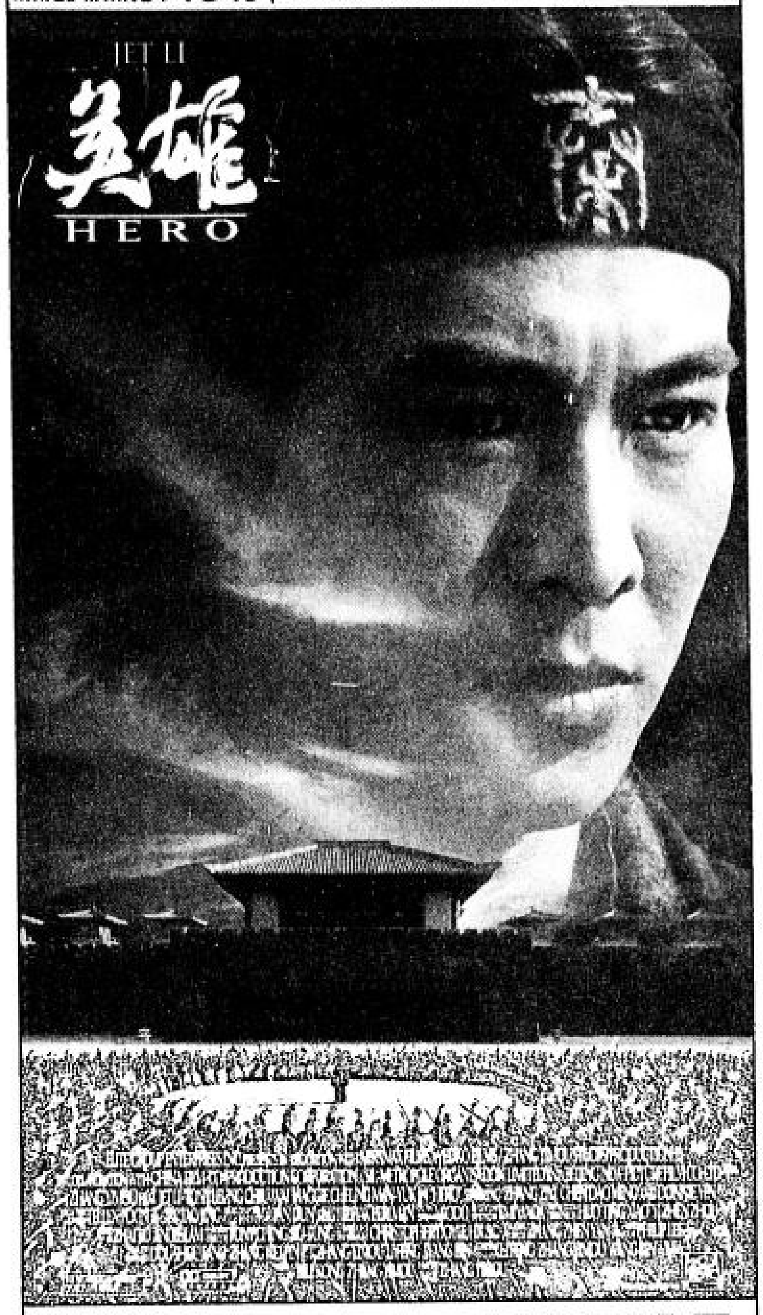
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OPENS FEBRUARY 5

OPENS FEBRUARY 5!

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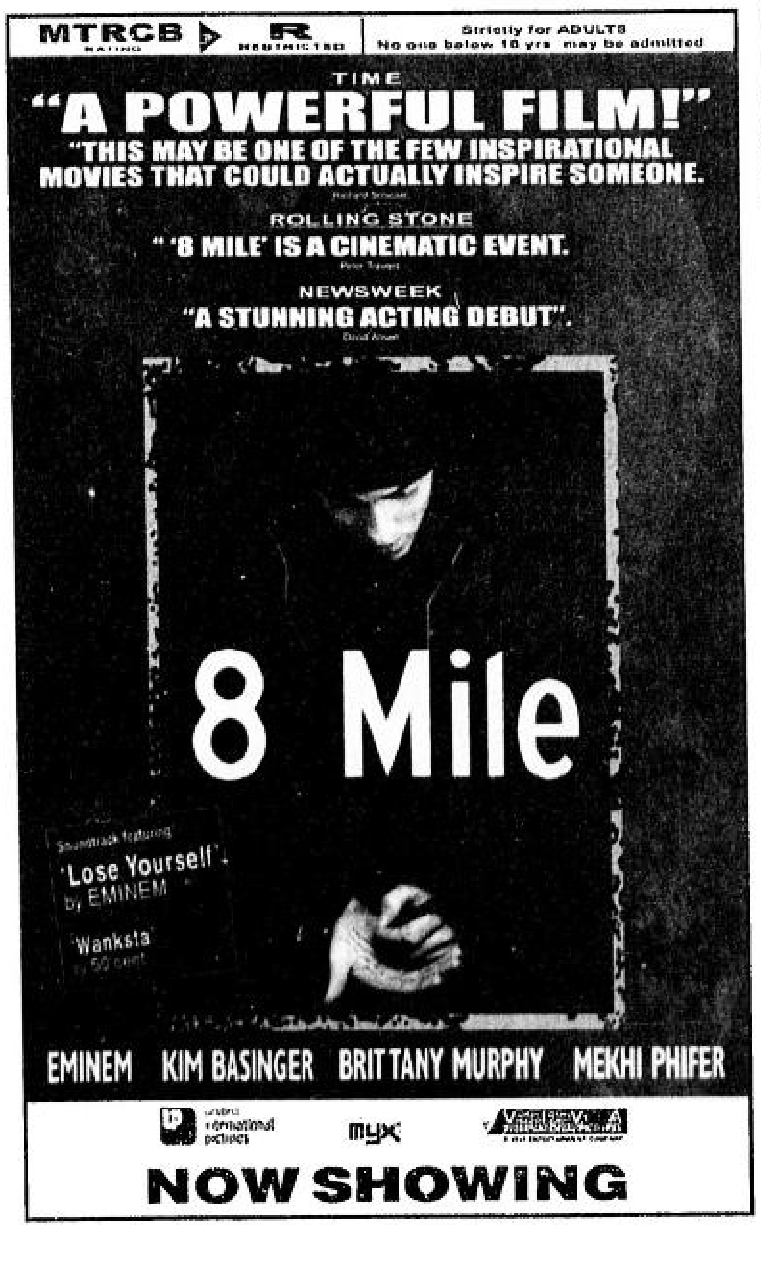
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HOT CHICK P13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	FEMME FATALE R18 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN P13 11:10,2:00,4:50, 7:40,10:30

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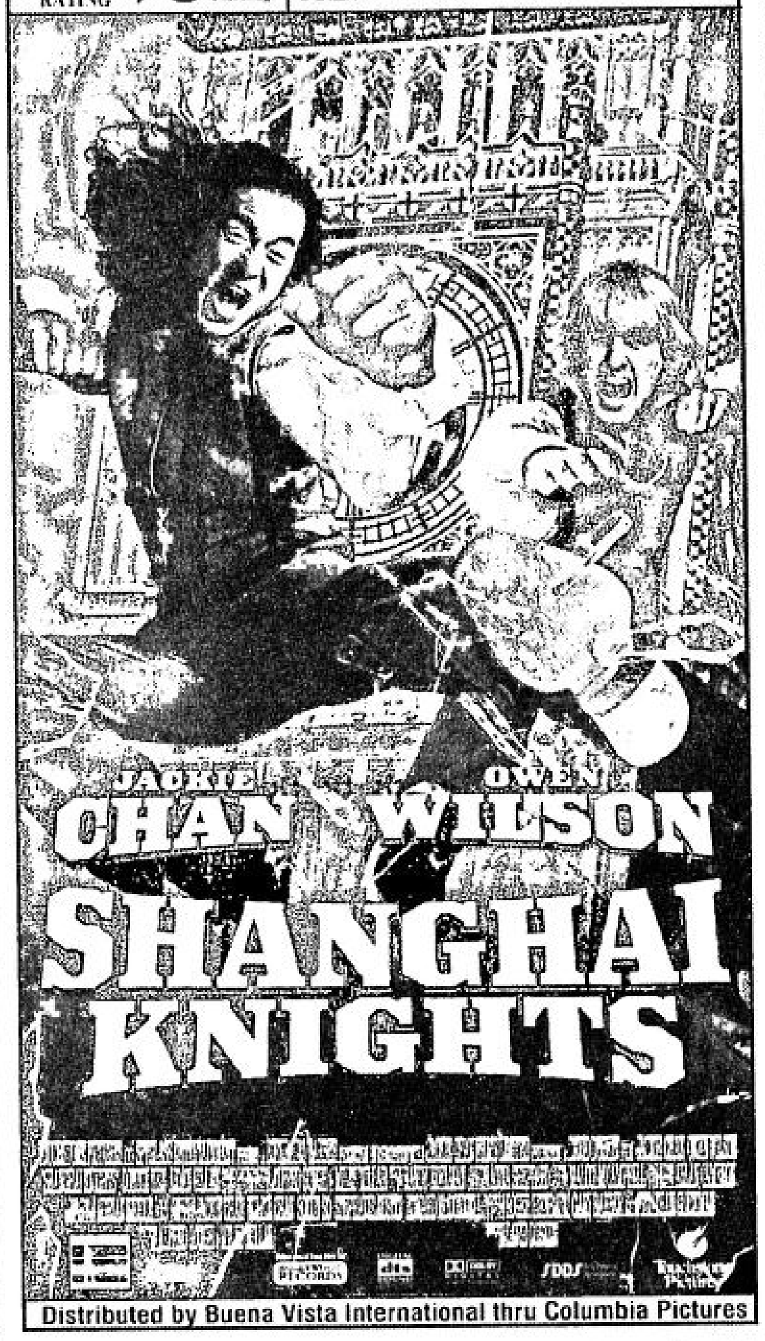
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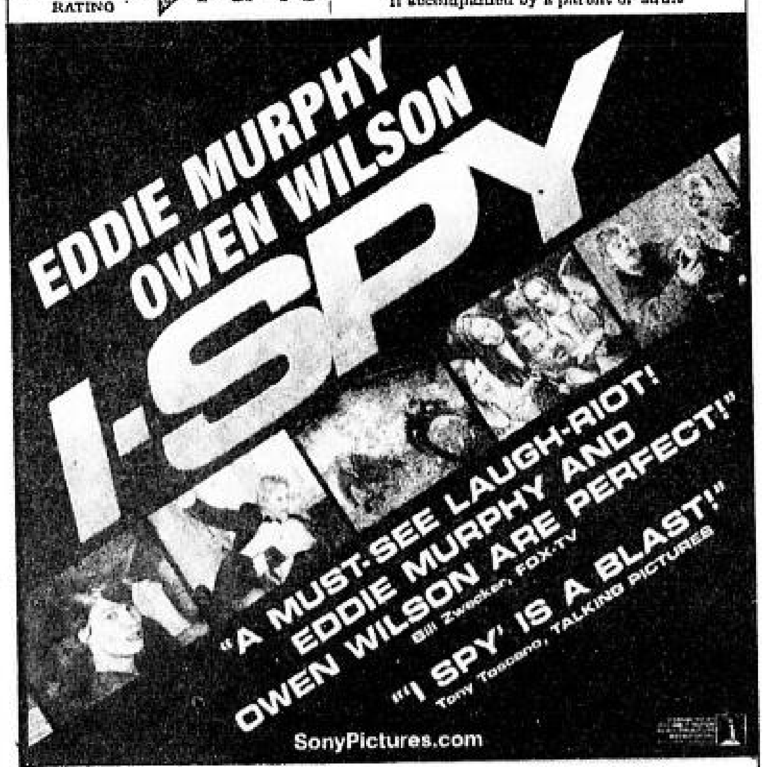
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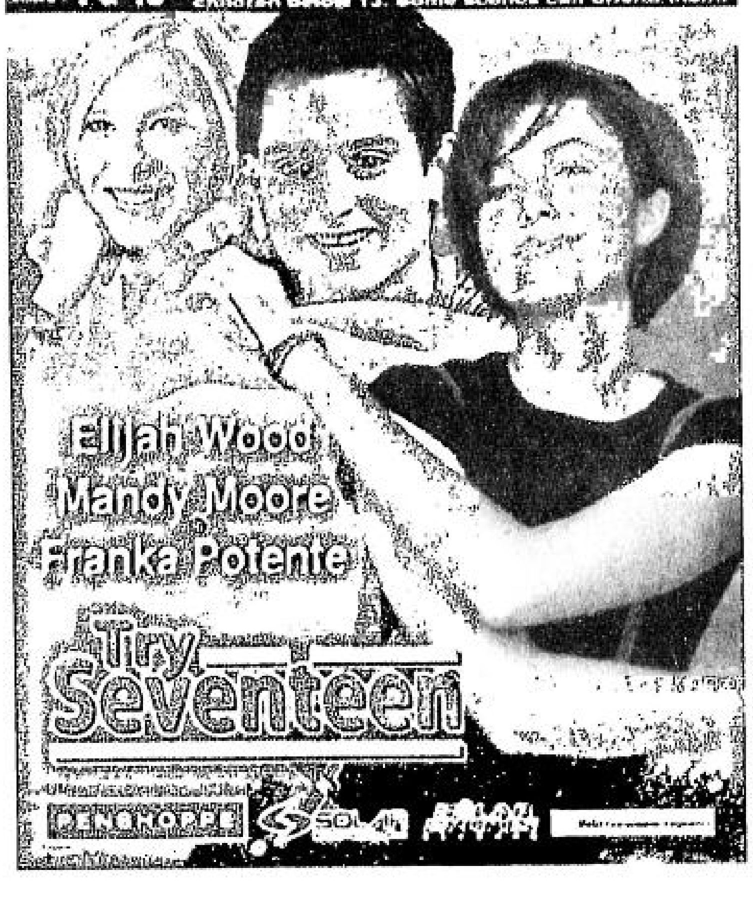
Elijah Wood
Mandy Moore
Franka Potente
Try Seventeen

'My Naughty Valentine'

AFTER their successful, sold-out team-up in "A Very Wholesome Show" at Country Waffles in Greenhills, Rico J. Puno and Rosanna Roces will bring the house down in their second outing, "My Naughty Valentine," Feb. 11 at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel in Makati City.

Royal Era Entertainment, Inc. brings back the hilarious duo, with special guest performers Pilita Corrales and Eddie Gutierrez. Concert producer is Annabelle Rama. Script and direction are by Floy Quintos.

For tickets inquiries, call Ilyn 727-2534 or 727-2536.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SUKDULAN
Ali 2	LOD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 3	CATCH ME IF U CAN
Ali 4	FEMME FATALE
Ali 5	HOT CHICK
Ali 6	TRY SEVENTEEN
Ali 7	BELOW
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	8 MILE
Farmers 2	THE RING
ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
FEB 8	LANI MISALUCHA CONCERT
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT
ELEPHANT WORLD	
FEB 1	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM
FEB 2	3 PM / 5 PM
FEB 3	10 AM / 3 PM

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAHERA / POSSESSION
ODEON	FEMME FATAL
ODEON-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI / TUKAAN
ROBEN	SUKDULAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	RED DRAGON / TRAP
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SUKDULAN
CORONET B	DERAITED / BUSS FOR PLEASURE
QUEZON-1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR	SUKDULAN
REMAR-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SUKDULAN
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	UK FILM FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOT CHICK
CINEMA-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
CINEMA-3	8 MILE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ONE HOUR PHOTO
CINEMA-6	BANGKERO
CINEMA-7	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-8	THE RING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELOW
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FEMME FATALLE
CINEMA-12	TRY SEVENTEEN
CINEMA-14	MAGNIFICO
CINEMA-15	SUKDULAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LNES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Kurt Cobain's

From page A32

Suicide hint

According to Rolling Stone music editor David Fricke, who wrote the information on the inlay card, Cobain refuted reports that he had several materials ready for their next album, although the band had performed "You Know You're Right" in several concerts, with different titles.

The song reportedly has shot up to No. 1 and an enormous renewed interest in the band is in sight, aided by a music video that features a collage of a "very much alive" Cobain and his little group's appearances, from magazine interviews to small-club gigs, mostly outtakes from the band's home video "Nirvana: Live Tonight Sold Out," released after Cobain's death.

The inanimate second voice sounds as if Cobain had been possessed by an entity detached from his own. The more he belts out his guts in the chorus ("Things have never been so swell/ And I have never been so well"), the more it becomes a paradox. It's as if he was hiding something.

The single also turns out to be a sketchy hint of his intention to commit suicide: *"I will never bother you/ I will never promise to/ I will never follow you . . . /I will move away from here/ You won't be afraid of fear."*

"Nirvana" could be a journey to Cobain's psyche, a beginner's guide to the band's musical landscape from its humble beginnings to its pop stardom.

For many, "You Know You're Right" is the only reason to buy the album.

The best way to learn and understand Nirvana's music is by skimming through its discography, starting from the band's Sub Pop debut album ("Bleach") to its last hurrah ("Through the Muddy Banks of Wishkah"), without skipping the in-betweeners.

(The author, nee Ellen Pomarejo, is a former editorial assistant of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine. She now lives in Austria with her husband Rainer Farkas)

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Level 1, Alabang Town Center
Level 1, Shangri-La Plaza Mall

TI02
G/F, Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center, Makati

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G/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Level R1, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Kurt Cobain's pain in lame greatest hits compilation

By Elen P. Farkas
Contributor

"Nirvana"
Nirvana
Geffen Records
2002

A MONTH after Kurt Cobain committed suicide, a friend enthusiastically told me that her younger male cousin, an avid Nirvana fan, buried all his Nirvana records in their backyard.

I didn't put my Nirvana analog cassettes six feet under, although they have been deteriorating. My sturdy walkman either ate the tapes or the tapes refused to play at all. The last song I heard from that batch was "Drain You," the eighth track of "Nevermind."

REVIEW

I cannot forget that evening, back home. As Meralco shut down the power supply all over Metro Manila, I waited for Cobain updates on the battery-powered radio beside me. And then, my player finally gave up. Bewildered, surprised and utterly sad, I couldn't help but cry, the tears running down my cheeks. That's it, I told myself; Cobain will never come back.

Nirvana, including the myths surrounding Cobain's persona, had a massive impact on my generation and on the music industry in general. That effect was inevitable. The radio was saturated with overplayed useless pop songs and the world was in turmoil.

Cobain's songs made a major breakthrough in the underground music scene. Nirvana's tribe increased, but not without some bad apples.

After Cobain pulled the trigger on April 5, 1994, I thought his genius went with his ashes. Thanks, or no thanks at all, to the keepers of his estate who refused to leave him alone. It's always been the same story haunting legendary musicians as the people they left behind dig up their quiet graves and sometimes recycle their records.

'Must-have!'

Now, after eight years, Cobain's legacy is stuffed in one compilation of only 14 remastered greatest hits and one new song, "You Know You're Right." His journal is now also available to the masses.

The band had recorded the single three months before Cobain's suicide. It is part of the newest self-titled "Nirvana," a direct result of the truce between Cobain's widow Courtney Love and the surviving band members, Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl, over control of the band's music.

Hear this: "Nirvana" is only the start. The unconfirmed box set, rarities and a DVD are expected to follow.

"Nirvana" has been dubbed a "must-have," but it's simply a lame collection of sorts. "Nirvana" cannot deny the fact that the word "rip-off" is plastered all over it. It was released just in time for the Christmas holidays, and it raises questions.

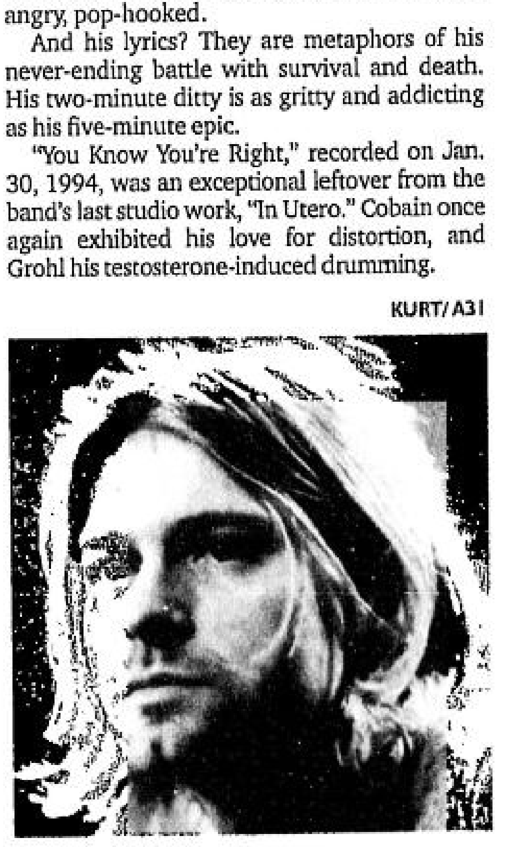
Is this the album that Love and Co. are trying to shield from the public? The song that can save the world? Why is the same business crap being used in Cobain's name?

Love doesn't have to prove anything. From the start, Cobain was blessed with his punkified Beatle-esque compositions. Yes, the songs are hard-edged but they are melodious, angry, pop-hooked.

And his lyrics? They are metaphors of his never-ending battle with survival and death. His two-minute ditty is as gritty and addicting as his five-minute epic.

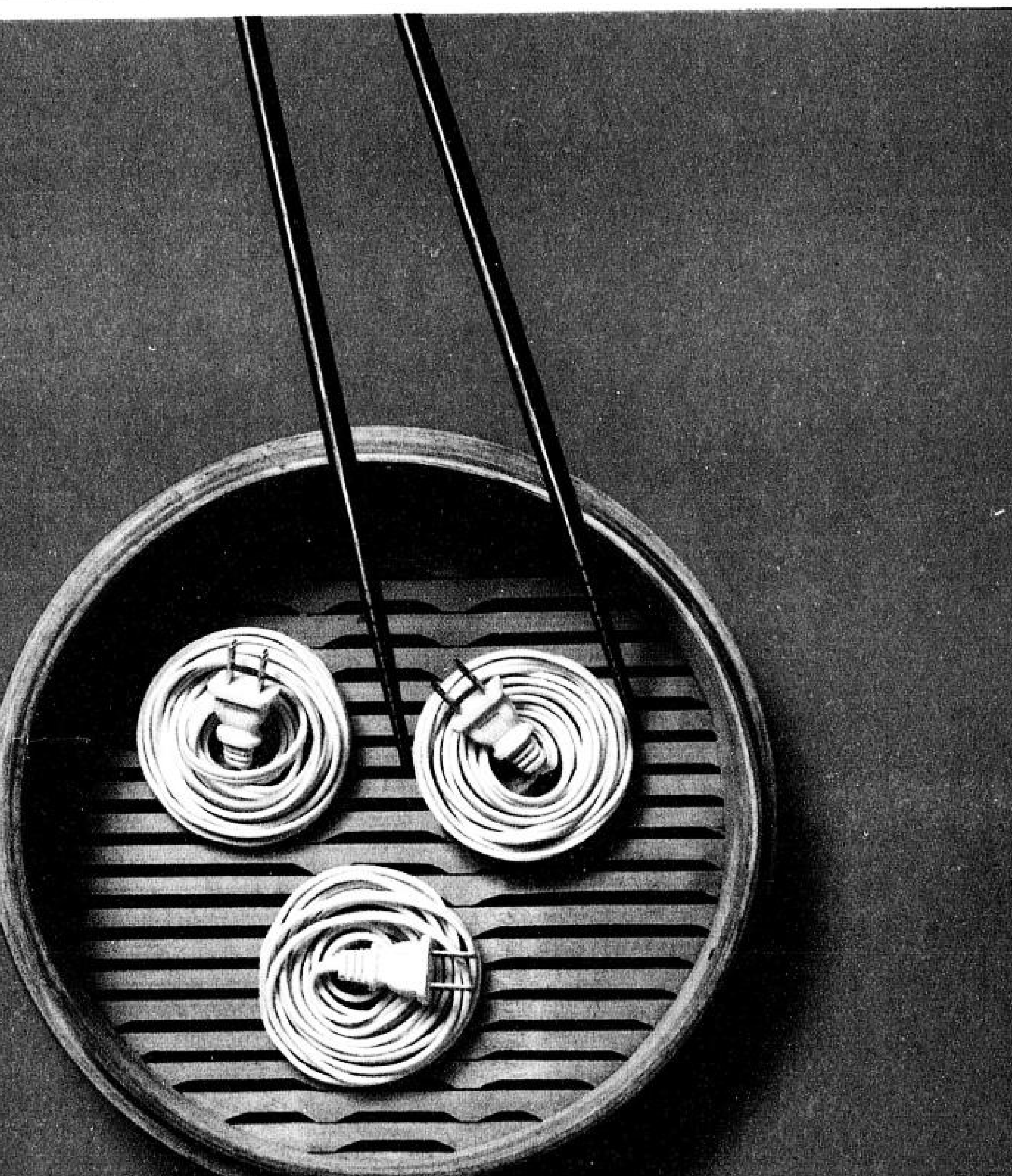
"You Know You're Right," recorded on Jan. 30, 1994, was an exceptional leftover from the band's last studio work, "In Utero." Cobain once again exhibited his love for distortion, and Grohl his testosterone-induced drumming.

KURT/A31



COBAIN

ENJOY A LAURIAT OF EVENTS AS WE CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR



THE LITTLE CHINATOWN FAIR at the NORTH & SOUTH COURTS
JAN 27 - FEB 6

AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY at the LOPEZ & PLAZA STRIPS
FEB 1, 6:30 pm

ANG PAO FRENZY at POWER BOWL & POWER PLANT CINEMAS
JAN 27 - FEB 2

DRAGON & LION DANCE
FEB 1, 5:30 pm & FEB 2, 1:00 pm

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT at the LOPEZ STRIP
JAN 31, 8:00 pm

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FRIDAY,
JANUARY 31, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Gov't plugs vehicle tax loopholes

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) has signed a new revenue regulation imposing excise taxes on all light commercial vehicles, in the process addressing an old issue on the taxability of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and Asian utility vehicles (AUVs).

The regulation, signed Jan. 29 by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr., amended Revenue Regulation (RR) No. 14-97, which excluded light commercial vehicles in the definition of automobiles.

Parayno earlier said that the amendment was done because of the loopholes seen in the previous revenue regulation.

"The new regulation will prevent leakages," he said.

In a presentation made by Assistant Revenue Commissioner Edwin Abella for the bureau's Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) before the signing of the regulation, a light commercial vehicle is now defined as "a motor vehicle, whether four-wheel drive or not, such as commuter vans, utility vans and sport utility vehicles, except for pickups."

PARAYNO

Abella added that the term automobile includes utility vehicles and light commercial vehicles except those with a seating capacity of 10 or more.

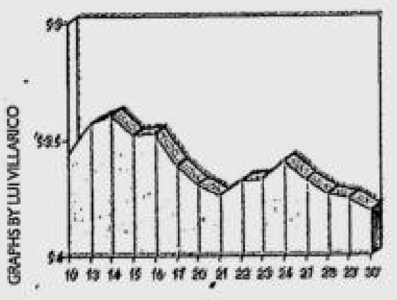
The new regulation also contained procedures for measurement of contoured and bucket-type seats other than the conventional horizontal-rectangular shapes; seats obstructed with doorside built-in armrest, overhead air-conditioning duct and protruding amplifier in wheel house, and length between each row of seats.

Abella explained that in a con-

GOV'T/B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P53.805 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 30, 2003

¥118.76 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan.30, 2003

GOLD: $365.90-366.40

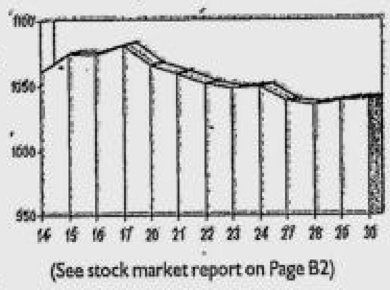
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 30, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Shares end mixed on bargain-hunting

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JANUARY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE MAIN share index closed higher in a mixed session yesterday on last-minute bargain-hunting in select blue chips led by Ayala Corp. and SM Prime, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 0.62 point, or 0.1 percent, at 1039.88, adding to Wednesday's 0.4-percent gain.

Ayala Corp. ended up 1.2 percent, at P4.30, boosted by a last-minute cross sale consisting of 68.5 million shares valued at P294.6 million by ING Barings Securities.

SM Prime rose 10 centavos, or 2 percent, at P5.10 on bargain-hunting.

The market failed to benefit much from the favorable 2002 economic report the government released shortly after trading started, as the numbers were treated more as historical data, said AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan.

"External factors, namely the threat of war in Iraq, continued to weigh on the market," Vistan told Dow Jones Newswires. "The economic report is historical data, and the market is forward looking."

As a result, decliners led gainers 26 to 22, while 43 issues were unchanged. Ayala Land was among the decliners, down 0.05 peso, or one percent, at P4.95.

The government reported that the country's gross domestic product, or GDP, in the fourth quarter of 2002 expanded 5.8 percent on year, surpassing the 4.2 percent forecast by economists. The government credited robust gains in the agriculture, industry and services sectors for the country's strong economic growth.

Vistan said it remains to be seen if the government's new economic chief Romulo Neri can sustain the robust fourth-quarter performance of the economy, which should be credited to his predecessor, Dante Canlas, who resigned just last month.

AP

WAR FEARS

January inflation at 2.8%

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate was estimated to have inched up to 2.8 percent this month from 2.6 percent in December, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Neda director for national planning and policy Soccoro Zingapan said the agency was expecting a range of 2.6-2.8 percent average increase in consumer prices for January.

"It's an uptick from 2.6 percent in December due to some increase in food and oil prices and other seasonality factors," Zingapan said.

Despite the uptrend in the early part of the year due to pressures arising from the tension in the Middle East, however, Zingapan said the government would still likely meet the 4.5-5.5 percent target inflation range for the full year.

"Right now, we're even looking at the low end (of the range)," she said.

She acknowledged that the Middle East crisis was exerting pressures even if an actual war has yet to happen.

The country's inflation rate for 2002 averaged at 3.1 percent, still much lower than the government's target range of 4.5-5.5 percent. Meantime, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday that monetary authorities would hold interest rates steady after the US Federal Reserve kept its policy rates unchanged, but added that they would monitor inflation as a war in Iraq loomed.

"I don't think we have to do anything right now. But we have to watch out for inflation," Buenaventura said in a note sent to reporters.

Buenaventura said on Tuesday he expected benchmark interest rates to rise at some stage this year as inflation was likely to hit the high end of the official target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent.

The central bank has kept its borrowing rate at 7 percent and its lending rate at 9.25 percent since March 2002.

The government is targeting exactly the same inflation range for this year, already taking into account the possible impact of the tension between the United States and Iraq that had pushed oil prices and the demand for foreign exchange up.

Aside from external developments, among the other threats to inflation in the coming months as acknowledged by the government is the recurrence of a dryspell that could affect agricultural production.

PSE sees Shell IPO this year

By Michelle V. Remo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. may finally offer its shares to the public this year.

Philippine Stock Exchange president Ernest Leung yesterday told reporters that Pilipinas Shell has given its word to President Macapagal-Arroyo that it would go public.

"When you give your word to the President of the Republic, it means that you are really serious about fulfilling your word," Leung said.

Pilipinas Shell and Caltex Philippines Inc. are required under the oil industry deregulation law to sell at least 10 percent of their shares to the public, but Leung said that Shell was asking for a reduction in the required minimum.

Leung said the PSE would still have to decide on the request of Pilipinas Shell, but said the bourse expected the oil company's initial public offering (IPO) to take place within the year.

Under the Downstream Oil Deregulation Act of 1998, the two oil giants were supposed to have conducted their IPOs in February 2001, but the Department of Justice ruled that the imposed deadline was only "directory and not executory."

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IHAP, Finex offered stakes in fixed income exchange

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines is offering the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines and other members of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippine Central Depository, stakes in the planned fixed income bourse in exchange for their holdings in the PCD.

"We are looking forward to offering the same opportunity to the other PCD shareholders as that given to the Philippine Stock Exchange (also a PCD shareholder)," BAP open market committee chair Vicente Castillo told reporters Wednesday evening.

The BAP signed on that day a memorandum of understanding with the PSE, allowing the exchange to acquire as much as 20 percent of the fixed income exchange through a share-swap arrangement involving PCD shares.

Castillo said the intention was to make PCD 100 percent-owned by the fixed income exchange group.

The other PCD members are the Social Security System and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The fixed income exchange would provide a "straight through" process featuring a trading platform, clearing and settlement platform and a depository, registry and custody platform. The three platforms may be offered through three separate companies.

Castillo also said the BAP was planning to upgrade PCD's depository and registry functions to include custody.

He said that the BAP was currently negotiating with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on what type of license could be granted to the PCD.

Other parties such as insurance companies, corporate issuers, multilateral agencies and a technology software provider have also been invited to invest in the fixed income exchange.

Each industry group is seen to invest up to 20 percent of the required capital.

In a statement, the PSE said that aside from the establishment of the fixed income exchange, the MOU would allow the two groups to develop partnership in clearing and settlement, depository and custodianship.

Castillo noted that, in the future, the fixed income and stock exchanges might have to "fuse," regardless of whether this would be by way of merger or cross-ownership.

He said the BAP would consider later a proposal for it to invest in the PSE.

The PSE earlier invited the bankers' group to consider investing in the stock exchange.

Ursumco agrees to pay ₱25 in property taxes

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—After a series of negotiations, the Gokongwei-owned Universal Robina Sugar Milling Corporation (Ursumco) has agreed to pay more than P25 million in unpaid taxes for its real estate property in Manjuyod, Negros Oriental.

Felomino Cabio Jr., acting provincial treasurer, said Ursumco entered into a compromise agreement with the Manjuyod municipal government and the Negros Oriental provincial government to settle the firm's tax delinquency for three years.

The Ursumco's unpaid taxes was pegged at P58 million, including penalty, as of last December. But the amount was later reduced to P25 million after a series of negotiations with the concerned local government units.

Under the agreement, the company promised to settle its obligation within two years starting this year. It already paid more than P7 million as initial payment.

The sugar mill in Barangay Alangilanan, Manjuyod town, about 54 kilometers north of this city, had not paid its real estate taxes since 1999 following the general revision of the assessment of real property in the province.

Before the revision, the company was only paying P5.3 million in annual realty tax. After the revision, the amount soared to P21.8 million.

In a letter dated June 1, 1999, Roberto L. Co, president of Ursumco, sought reconsideration before the province's Board of Assessment Appeals on the ground that the realty taxes were excessive and unjust. But their appeal was turned down.

But both the provincial government and the Manjuyod municipal government later agreed to renegotiate Ursemco's annual realty tax, bringing it down to P10 million a year.

Danilo Mendez of the Provincial Treasurer's Office said the company also asked the office to condone the P6 million in penalty but it was turned down due to lack of legal basis.

Manjuyod Mayor Guillermo Banjao, however, was not happy over the compromise agreement.

He said it would have been better if the Ursumco granted his request to make monthly or quarterly payment on its taxes so that the money could be used for the town's pending projects.

The company had opted to pay its tax dues at the end of every year for two years.

Under the law, 50 percent of the realty tax will go the municipal government's Special Educational Fund. The rest will be shared by the municipality (45 percent), province (35 percent) and Barangay Alangilanan (25 percent).

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, January 30, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	13,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36	36	35.5	36	94,800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26	26	26	26	5,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30.5	30	30	5,300
Philippine National Bank	26	26	26	26	600
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	8,000
Security Bank Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	12,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	30,200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1160	1185	1160	1185	1,080
Sun Life Financial Serv.	935	950	935	950	2,820
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13	13	13	25,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	510	510	505	505	3,060
ISM Communications Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	2,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	15,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	295	295	292.5	295	39,030
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	17,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	42,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	505,600
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	2,254,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	260,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	80,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	295,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,030,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.4	130,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	73,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34.5	35	34.5	35	119,200
Swift Food Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56.5	56.5	119,200
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64.5	63.5	64.5	223,300
Universal Robina Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	85,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	69,173,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	430,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	1,300,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	9	9	8.9	8.9	170,000
Ionics Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	530,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	1,750,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.155	110,000
Music Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.035	0.033	0.035	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	213,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	17	17	17	17	4,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	1,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	55,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	180,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	7.5	8	17,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12.5	13	12.5	12.75	107,500
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4,000
Jollibee Warrants	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	20,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	2,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	9,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	5	4.9	4.95	4,515,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	5,070,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	3,010,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	100,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	150,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	405,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	11,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	590,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	4,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	340,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P) (P)
Bank & Fin Svc	30,375,400	17,771,400.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	102,068,173	358,877,312.00
PRO	13,660,000	26,571,800.00
Mining	16,830,000	1,826,400.00
OIL	14,000,000	64,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	176,933,573	405,110,912.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	376.38	UP 1.51
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,482.89	DOWN 2.43
PRO	450.33	UP 1.69
Mining	1,328.76	DOWN 6.93
OIL	1.05	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	626.75	DOWN 2.71
Composite	1,039.88	UP 0.62

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 91; NO. OF TRADES: 878

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 1, 9 a.m. at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Feb. 21 are entitled to vote in the said meeting.

* * *

MUSIC Corp. disclosed the resignation of Michael Burton as the president/CEO and director of Music Semiconductors Philippines Inc. (MSPI) and the appointment of Juan Custodio as general manager.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. bought 6,000 shares of ILIB at P1.90 per share on Jan. 29 pursuant to its share buyback program.

* * *

DIZON Copper-Silver Mines Inc. said it had accepted the resignation of Joel Matsuda as president and board member. The company has elected Agnes H. Maranan as board member and Teresita Dizon as president.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank declared a P0.60 per share cash dividend. Record date is yet to be announced. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Jan. 30, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.922765	1.000000	53.755000
Japan	Yen	0.007792	0.008444	0.453900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.519978	1.647200	88.545200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.118310	0.128213	6.892100
Switzerland	Franc	0.680706	0.737681	39.654000
Canada	Dollar	0.606842	0.657635	35.351200
Singapore	Dollar	0.533236	0.577868	31.063300
Australia	Dollar	0.544789	0.590388	31.736300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.447782	2.652661	142.593800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.246077	0.266674	14.335100
Brunei	Dollar	0.531700	0.576203	30.973800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000113	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021626	0.023436	1.259800
UAE	Dirham	0.251263	0.272294	14.637200
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.083700	58.254300
Argentina	Peso	0.278781	0.302115	16.240200
Brazil	REAL	0.255190	0.276549	14.865900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134457	0.145711	7.832700
India	Rupee	0.019333	0.020951	1.126200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.242865	0.263193	14.147900
Mexico	New Peso	0.084479	0.091550	4.921300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.506401	0.548787	29.500000
Norway	Kroner	0.133891	0.145098	7.799700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015894	0.017224	0.925900
South Africa	Rand	0.108242	0.117302	6.305600
Korea	Won	0.000793	0.000859	0.046200
Sweden	Kroner	0.108618	0.117709	6.327400
Syria	Pound	0.017917	0.019417	1.043800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026739	0.028977	1.557700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000481	0.000521	0.028000

E-PCIB's anti-takeover pill

THE Go family has devised a new Equitable-PCIBank by-law that would make more expensive any takeover attempt of the recently merged banks.

The new amendment would make it mandatory for any person or group intending to acquire at least 15 percent of E-PCIB equity security "or at least 30 percent of such equity over a period of 12 months" to comply with the provisions of the tender offer rule.

The tender offer rule requires the acquirer to disclose the purchase and to offer the same premium and price paid for the bloc to all the shareholders as well.

Such stipulation would prevent an acquiring investor from offering different prices for the shares held by different shareholders during a takeover attempt.

The amendment will be submitted for ratification during the bank's annual stockholders' meeting scheduled on April 15.

About 35 percent of E-PCIB shares are held by the government through the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System, investments that could be sold as quickly as they had been ordered bought during Erap's heydays.

But the GSIS-SSS combine appears to be under no pressure to dispose of the shareholdings in the short term. The government shares were acquired at about P96 a share; E-PCIBank closed Wednesday at P26.

At the last count, the Gos controlled about 30 percent of the combined banks, a rather tenuous hold.

The balance is held by the family of ex-Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez (one board seat), institutional investors, and by the public.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BIREA's brats

IN the private sector, those who don't produce get fired.

In the BIR, the union is now even demanding that every employee be given five months of separation benefits for every year of service with the right to be rehired in the new privatized tax collection agency.

In addition, the Bureau of Internal Revenue Employees Association wants at least 80 percent of the existing 12,000-plus BIR employees to be absorbed by the proposed agency, with employees below division chief automatically rehired and guaranteed with security of tenure by their new employer.

These demands have been submitted to Congress by BIREA, the same group that threw a monkey's wrench in former BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez's revenue-raising efforts, leading to Bañez's abrupt departure.

BIREA even told the legislators now conducting public hearings on a bill that would abolish the BIR "they will not spare any effort to protect (their) rights," which, during Bañez's time, not only meant mass actions, work slowdowns but also negative publicity campaign.

Good cars, stalled sales

THE Cefiros and Exaltas marketed locally are actually Infinitis in Nissan's clothing, Infiniti being Nissan's luxury car division in the United States.

Still, despite their luxury provenance, sales have sputtered lately, with Nissan tumbling back to fifth place after zooming to the second biggest selling automotive badge locally.

Apparently, the flagging sales are part of the birth pains now plaguing the Taiwanese group ever since it took over from the Japanese management.

After having hurdled a strike in its Santa Rosa plant, the Taiwanese executives now face a multimillion-peso suit from their advertising agency, Tom Banguis' AB Communications, over what appears to be a botched bidding that saw Banguis's exclusive contract being farmed out to three other agencies.

According to the grapevine, this is the second case filed by Banguis against his principals, the first one having been settled amicably.

What is compounding the marketing mix-up is that the Taiwanese expatriate in charge of sales—the chap that took over from Elizabeth Lee, who is now fulltime with Universal Motors, Nissan's SUV-light truck assembler/distributor—has reportedly been shipped back to home office since the yearend, with no successor yet being announced.

Heard through the grapevine

GLOBE Telecom is making so much money that it has just increased the per diem of its directors from P20,000 to P100,000 for every board or committee meeting attended. And that does not include travel, car plan, and other perks. No wonder ex-Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo does not want to go back to the government. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Gov't plugs vehicle tax loopholes

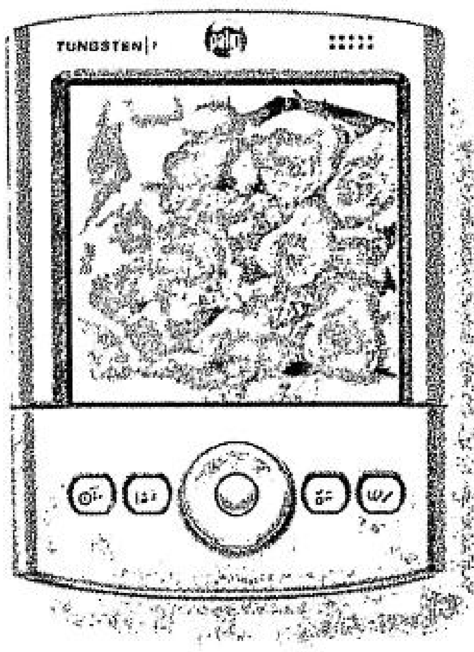
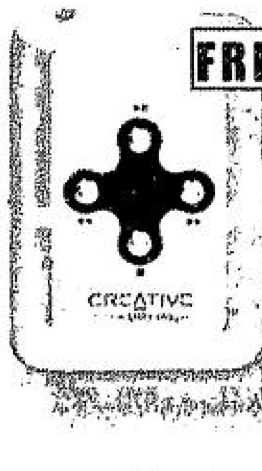
From page B1

tiguous row of contoured or bucket-type seats or seats with shapes other than the conventional horizontal-rectangular shapes, each seat is treated individually applying the minimum prescribed measurements.

The regulation says that a seat whose floor elevation is lower than the rest of the passenger seats and deprives the passenger to sit normally is considered without leg room.

Another addition to the regulation is the inclusion of jump, fold-away and fold-down seats in the total seating capacity of a vehicle. These mentioned seat types are counted as seats provided that these are accessible only through the side doors of the vehicle, and that these are factory installed and meet the area specifications defined in RR 94-97.

Moreover, the new regulation states that all seats should be provided with its own back rest. Otherwise, it should be disallowed even if these are factory installed.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The Perfect Couple ...

New Price
Php 21,900

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- High Resolution Color Display (320x320)
- Built-in Bluetooth
- Voice Recorder
- Palm OS 5.0 and Powerful ARM Processor
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...this season of the hearts

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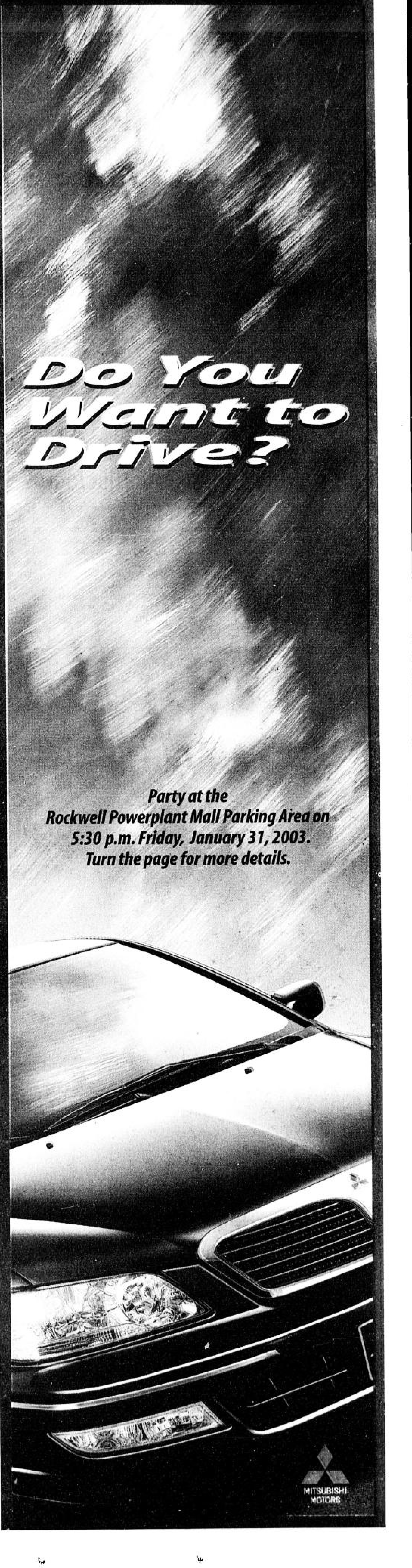

Party at the
Rockwell Powerplant Mall Parking Area on
5:30 p.m. Friday, January 31, 2003.
Turn the page for more details.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Mitsubishi's AUV plan in RP hinged on fresh incentives

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MITSUBISHI Motors Corp.'s plan to consolidate its regional production of Asian utility vehicles (AUV) in the Philippines is hinged on the fiscal perks the government is prepared to give to manufacturers that will export out of the country.

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Dizon said the Philippines should take full advantage of its ability to grant subsidies to local vehicle manufacturers which the World Trade Organization has abolished beginning last year. The Philippines can still continue with its export incentives because the WTO exempts countries with a per capita income below $1,000.

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Assemblers have criticized the government for its inconsistent industry policy, which encourages exports but at the same time penalizes the players by allowing continued imports of used light trucks and squeezing more tax money from vehicle sales. *(See related story on page B1.)*

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Mitsubishi Japan senior vice president Steven Torok said the company would introduce a succession of new models to be brought in as CBUs from Thailand.

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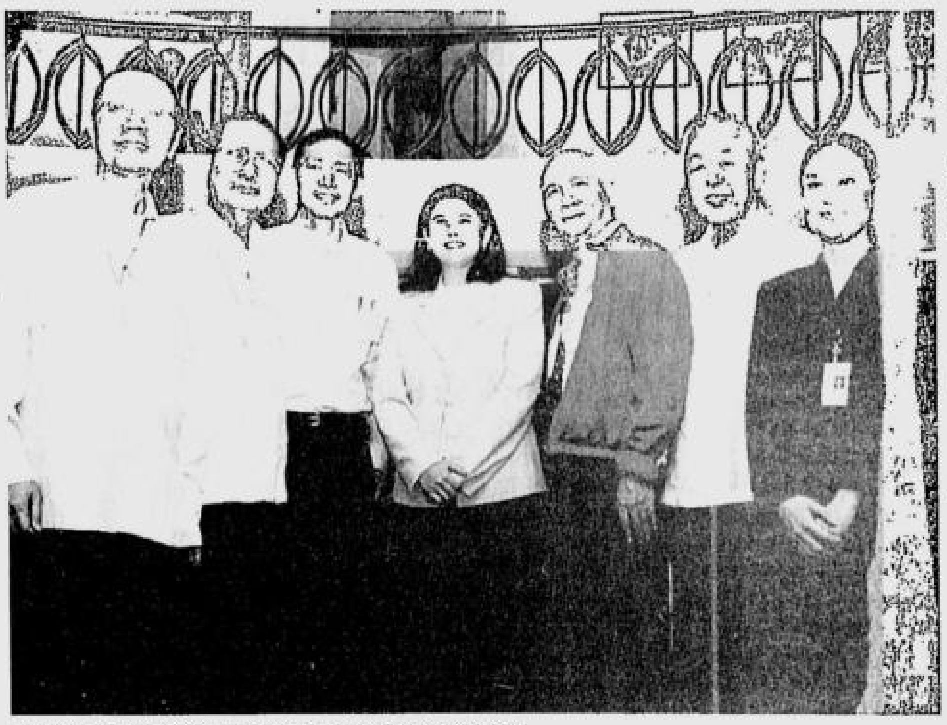

INQUIRER TOUR FOR BUSINESSMEN

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By Michelle V. Remo

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"Let us join hands to promote Mindanao as a destination. PAL will even lobby with our foreign counterparts to operate more flights to Mindanao," he said.

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Currently, 44 foreign carriers enjoy the right to operate passenger and cargo services to Davao and three other Mindanao points—General Santos City, Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro—but only Silk Air of Singapore actually exercises this privilege via a four-times-weekly service to Davao.

"Clearly, Mindanao is massively underserved by foreign airlines. The Mindanao business sector must now focus on addressing this issue and PAL will do all it can to assist in this endeavor."

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"We will advocate that giant US carriers like Northwest Airlines and Continental Airlines utilize their long-dormant right to fly to Mindanao, which is crying out for more international flights, and not just content themselves with the overcrowded Manila market."

On the part of PAL, Zapanta disclosed that the airline will pursue several initiatives in the coming months to enhance its domestic and international services, including:

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"PAL is not just standing still but continuously improving its product. And we are doing this without any subsidy or loan guarantees from the Philippine government, unlike our US counterparts, which have benefited from massive state subsidies," he added.

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Citystate Savings Bank, Inc.

709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City

Statement of Condition

As of December 17, 2002

ASSETS		AMOUNT
Cash & Cash Items	P	28,778,646.25
Due From Bangko Sentral		2,701,510.92
Due From Other Banks		27,654,045.68
Interbank Loans Receivable		340,000,000.00
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		469,548,216.60
Available for Sale Sec.-Govt. Others		52,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		13,730,336.81
Equity Investment in Financial Allied Undertakings		399,500.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		103,862,368.77
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/ Acquired		44,126,948.21
Others		109,455,978.05
TOTAL ASSETS	P	1,192,257,553.29
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits		37,235,115.07
Savings Deposits		624,701,948.17
Time Deposits		-
Due to BSP		325,262.31
Managers Check		11,720,840.01
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable		5,742,833.08
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		1,841,945.81
Other Liabilities		24,277,722.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	705,845,667.39
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	441,000,000.00
Paid-In Surplus		2,222,444.00
Surplus Free		16,210,419.66
Undivided Profits		26,979,022.24
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	486,411,885.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	1,192,257,553.29
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Items Held For Safekeeping	P	372.00
Items Held As Collateral		349.00
Late Deposits / payments received		284,154.90
Deficiency Claims Receivable		1,434,382.42
Outward Bills for Collections		169,740.82
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	1,888,999.14

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Vicente M. Santiago, Jr.
Chairman

Alfonso G. Sly
Vice Chairman

Antonio L. Cabangon-Chua
Director

D. Alfred A. Cabangon
Director

Leow Siak Fah
Director

Leow Tze Wen
Director

Feorello M. Boto
Director

J. Wilfredo A. Cabangon
Director

D. Arnold A. Cabangon
Director

Godofredo C. Uy-Tioco
Director

Armando C. Trinidad
Director

Benjamin V. Ramos
Director

Anthony Tan
Director

Dr. Ramon L. Sin
Director

Atty. Joaquin T. Venus, Jr.
Director, Corporate Secretary

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS:

D. Alfred A. Cabangon
President

Atty. Roy D. Delfin
Executive Vice President

COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW

	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Prescribed Rates of Compliance		
Actual Compliance	36.33 %	393.51 %

OTHER INFORMATION (CB Circular 208)

Non-performing loans and	P	30,273,735.75
Ratio to total Loan Portfolio		3.68%
Classified loans and other risk assets	P	95,852,308.96
General loan loss reserve	P	1,002,345.69
Specific loan loss reserve	P	11,940,836.33
Return on equity (ROE)		8.45%
DOSRI loans/advances	P	12,746,889.44
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and		1.55%
Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total portfolio		0.00

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PASIG CITY) S.S.

We, Eduardo O. Olavario and D. Alfred A. Cabangon, solemnly swear that all matters set forth in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief

(Sgd.) EDUARDO O. OLAVARIO
VP - Comptroller

(Sgd.) D. ALFRED A. CABANGON
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 13th day of January 2003, affiant exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No 13384953 issued at Bacoor, Cavite on February 1, 2002 and Residence Certificate No. 07743368 issued at Mandaluyong City on January 14 2002 respectively

(Sgd.) TEODORO O. VILLAPENA, JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2003
IBP NO 560254
PTR NO 3443215

Doc No. 249
Page 49
Book No. 1
Series of 2003

Firm starts John Hay condotel project

FOLLOWING the completion of the Camp John Hay Manor Hotel, Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDC) has started the construction of the Camp John Hay Suites condotel facility [illegible] but bigger than the Manor.

The 28[illegible] unit CJH Suites will [illegible] on the former site of the famous 19th Tee which gives a splendid view of the Jack [illegible]s-designed golf [illegible] and the Cordillera mountain range. The Suites is part of the master plan drawn up by the government for Camp John Hay.

Designed by Recio & Casas Associates the Suites blends colonial American and Cordillera influences. It is a 4-story structure that consists of studio-type, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. Like the Manor, it will also offer the modern conveniences of a world-class hotel.

According to Shean Bedi, CJHDC senior vice president for marketing, the Suites would boost Baguio City's tourism industry by providing more and better accommodation facilities.

The Suites will be operated by Club Leisure Inc., the same management group operating the Manor, Camp John Hay Golf Club and Manila Southwoods Manor.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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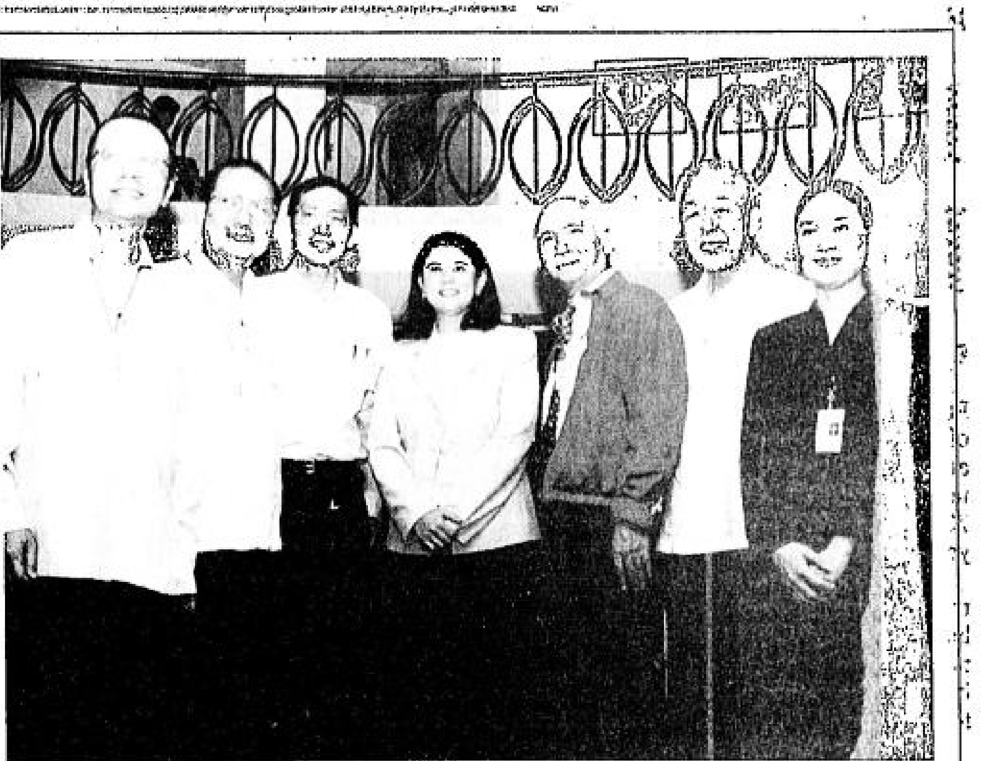

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Due From Other Banks		27,654,045.68
Interbank Loans Receivable		340,000,000.00
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		469,548,216.60
Available for Sale Sec.-Govt. Others		52,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		13,730,338.81
Equity Investment in Financial Allied Undertakings		398,500.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		103,062,368.77
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/ Acquired		44,126,948.21
Others		109,455,978.05
TOTAL ASSETS	P	1,192,257,553.29
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	37,235,115.07
Savings Deposits		624,701,948.17
Time Deposits		-
Due to BSP		325,262.31
Managers Check		11,720,840.01
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable		5,742,833.08
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		1,841,945.81
Other Liabilities		24,277,722.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	705,845,667.39
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	441,000,000.00
Paid-In Surplus		2,222,444.00
Surplus Free		16,210,419.66
Undivided Profits		26,979,022.24
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	486,411,885.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	1,192,257,553.29
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Items Held For Safekeeping	P	372.00
Items Held As Collateral		349.00
Late Deposits / payments received		284,154.90
Deficiency Claims Receivable		1,434,382.42
Outward Bills for Collections		169,740.82
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	1,888,999.14

COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW

Prescribed Rates of Compliance	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	36.33 %	393.51 %

OTHER INFORMATION (CB Circular 208)

Non-performing loans and	P	30,273,735.75
Ratio to total Loan Portfolio		3.68%
Classified loans and other risk assets	P	95,852,308.96
General loan loss reserve	P	1,002,345.69
Specific loan loss reserve	P	11,940,036.33
Return on equity (ROE)		8.45%
DOSRI loans/advances	P	12,746,889.44
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and		1.55%
Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total portfolio		0.00

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Vicente M. Santiago, Jr.
Chairman

Alfonso G. Sly
Vice Chairman

Antonio L. Cabangon-Chua
Director

D. Alfred A. Cabangon
Director

Leow Siak Fah
Director

Leow Tze Wen
Director

Feorello M. Boto
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Armando C. Trinidad
Director

Benjamin V. Ramos
Director

Anthony Tan
Director

Dr. Ramon L. Sin
Director

Atty. Joaquin T. Venus, Jr.
Director, Corporate Secretary

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS:

D. Alfred A. Cabangon
President

Atty. Roy D. Dolfin
Executive Vice President

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PASIG CITY) S.S.

We, Eduardo O. Olavario and D. Alfred A. Cabangon, solemnly swear that all matters set forth in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO O. OLAVARIO
VP - Comptroller

(Sgd.) D. ALFRED A. CABANGON
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 13th day of January 2003, affiant exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No 13384953 issued at Bacoor, Cavite on February 1, 2002 and Residence Certificate No. 07743308 issued at Mandaluyong City on January 14 2002 respectively.

(Sgd.) TEODORO O. VILLAPENA, JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2003
IBP NO 560254
PTR NO. 3443215

Doc. No. 249
Page 49
Book No. 1
Series of 2003

Firm starts John Hay condotel project

FOLLOWING the completion of the Camp John Hay Manor Hotel, Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDC) has started the construction of the Camp John Hay Suites, a condotel facility similar but bigger than the Manor.

The 287-unit CJH Suites will rise on the former site of the famous 19th Tee, which gives a splendid view of the Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course and the Cordillera mountain range. The Suites is part of the master plan drawn up by the government for Camp John Hay.

Designed by Recio & Casas Associates, the Suites blends colonial American and Cordillera influences. It is a 4-story structure that consists of studio-type, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. Like the Manor, it will also offer the modern conveniences of a world-class hotel.

According to Shean Bedi, CJHDC senior vice president for marketing, the Suites would boost Baguio City's tourism industry by providing more and better accommodation facilities.

The Suites will be operated by Club Leisure Inc., the same management group operating the Manor, Camp John Hay Golf Club and Manila Southwoods Manor.

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PSBank logs 73% income hike on deposit growth

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank, thrift unit of No. 1 lender Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., posted an unaudited net income of P302 million last year, 73 percent higher than the previous year's P173 million.

In a disclosure sent yesterday to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the bank said the significant growth in its net income resulted from a growth in its deposit, loan and investment portfolios.

"This year, we shall continue to build our consumer banking business and commence development of our business proposition towards the small and medium enterprise segment through product and service improvements," PSBank president Pascual Garcia III said.

The bank's customer deposits grew last year by 35 percent, or P5.7 billion, from the previous year's level.

Its loan portfolio grew 20.3 percent, or P2.7 billion, while its investment portfolio went up 93 percent.

These results were seen to come from PSBank's installation last year of new technology applications to supports its deposit and loan operations and to improve overall bank efficiency.

"We are encouraged by the success we have achieved in growing customer relationships and improving our visibility and presence among the key areas we choose to serve," Garcia said.

He expressed confidence that the continued low interest rate environment would further stimulate demand among the auto, housing and small business segments, key sectors that the bank had been focusing on.

PSBank's auto, housing and personal loan collectively grew by 70 percent.

The thrift bank's non-performing loan ratio, meanwhile, shrank to 7.9 percent, while provisioning coverage improved to 56 percent of its bad loans.

The bank has relocated 23 branches to more strategic customer convenient locations.

Recently, Bancnet awarded the bank with a service award for the distinction of having the highest ATM transaction completion for 2002. Among all Bancnet ATM members, PSBank ATMs were the highest rated in completed ATM transactions.

RP copra rebound seen in 2003-04

THE US Agriculture Department's attache has released a report forecasting an increase in copra production in the Philippines in market year 2003 to 2004.

Copra is the dried coconut meat from which coconut oil is extracted.

The report said copra production would fall in market year 2002 to 2003, but would grow the following year "as stressed coconut trees recover."

Copra, copra meal and coconut oil exports are also expected to decline in 2002-2003 but will likely increase the following year mainly due to improved copra supply and increased copra crush.

After declining two consecutive years, copra production is expected to increase in 2003-2004.

According to the report, although the United Coconut Association of the Philippines Inc. expects copra production to decline in 2003 from the previous year, recovery is likely to start beginning in the second half of market year 2003-2004.

"This is consistent with coconut tree biological makeup, which takes at least two years to fully recover from heavy stress," according to the UCAP.

This is the main reason for the production decline in 2002-2003 and not the predicted El Niño weather disturbance, the effects of which were very mild.

Reuters

Petron sees rise in net

PETRON Corp., the country's largest oil refiner, said yesterday it expected its net income to leap to more than P2.3 billion in 2002 from P1.22 billion a year earlier.

"We can hit more than P2.3 billion," Petron chair Nick Alcantara told reporters.

Petron will announce its 2002 financial results after its board meeting on Feb. 18, other officials said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has lobbied the local government of Manila to defer its plan to push giant oil depots out of city limits, saying a war in Iraq could seriously disrupt fuel supplies to the nation.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
VARIABLE LIFE	Current Week January 28, 2003	Last Week January 21 2003
Prulink Bond Fund	1.04960	1.04706
Prulink Managed Fund	1.01974	1.02416

* Note PRULINK Funds were launched last September 18 2002

Country Bankers Insurance Group has recently announced the appointment of Atty. Ignacio A. Macrohon, Jr. as the new Acting President for both Country Bankers Insurance Corporation and Country Bankers Life Insurance Corporation. In line with the Company's thrust to transform the family corporations into professional business organizations, Atty. Macrohon was the excellent choice for the position.

A graduate of the Ateneo Law School, Atty. Macrohon has a solid background in both the life and non-life insurance industry, earning his experience from the Ayala Group of Companies, First Nationwide Credit Corporation and Beneficial Life Insurance Company. He plays an active role in the insurance industry, some of which are his appointment as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific and as President of the Philippine Association of Life Assurance Companies, among others.

QUEENBEE RESOURCES CORPORATION
6/F Jollibee Plaza, No. 10 Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Centre, Pasig City

NOTICE TO ALL WARRANT-HOLDERS

January 21, 2003

Dear Warrant-holders,

We would like to remind you that the Warrants over common shares of Jollibee Foods Corporation ("JFC") will automatically expire after the close of business hours on 24th March 2003 and such Warrants remaining unexercised at that time shall forthwith lapse and cease to have any force effect.

As of this date, Queenbee Resources Corporation (QRC) has a total of 19,143,035 outstanding warrants. All Warrant-Holders as of the record date were given one additional warrant for every five warrants held.

The current cash balance of the Company is down to a level necessary for the Company to cover its operating expenses until the expiration of warrants on March 24, 2003. Given the need to maintain such cash level, it is unlikely that the Company would still declare additional bonus warrants before the expiry date. Hence, we urge you to exercise your rights as Warrant-Holders before the Expiry Date on March 24, 2003.

As stated in the Warrants Instrument, the Warrant Exercise Right is exercisable upon payment of the Exercise Price of P0.25 at any time prior to the Expiry Date. With the passage of the Retail Trade Liberalization Law of 2000, foreign nationals can now own JFC shares. However, because JFC owns land, Philippine law limits such foreign ownership to 40% of the outstanding capital stock of JFC. As of December 31, 2002, foreign nationals owned 17.30% of the issued and outstanding capital stock of JFC.

As prescribed under Condition 15.2 of the Warrants Instrument, this notice will be published in one leading English language newspaper circulating in London and New York City and one leading English language newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM TAN UNTIONG
Corporate Secretary
Queenbee Resources Corporation

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation

Cordially invites you to
The All-New Mitsubishi Lancer Launch Party

Celebrate with us as we formally introduce
the All-New Mitsubishi Lancer.

Partying with us are some of our friends:
Ogie Alcasid
Joey Generoso
Janno Gibbs
Nanette Inventor
Luke Mejares
Jaya Ramsey
Regine Velasquez
Hotlegs
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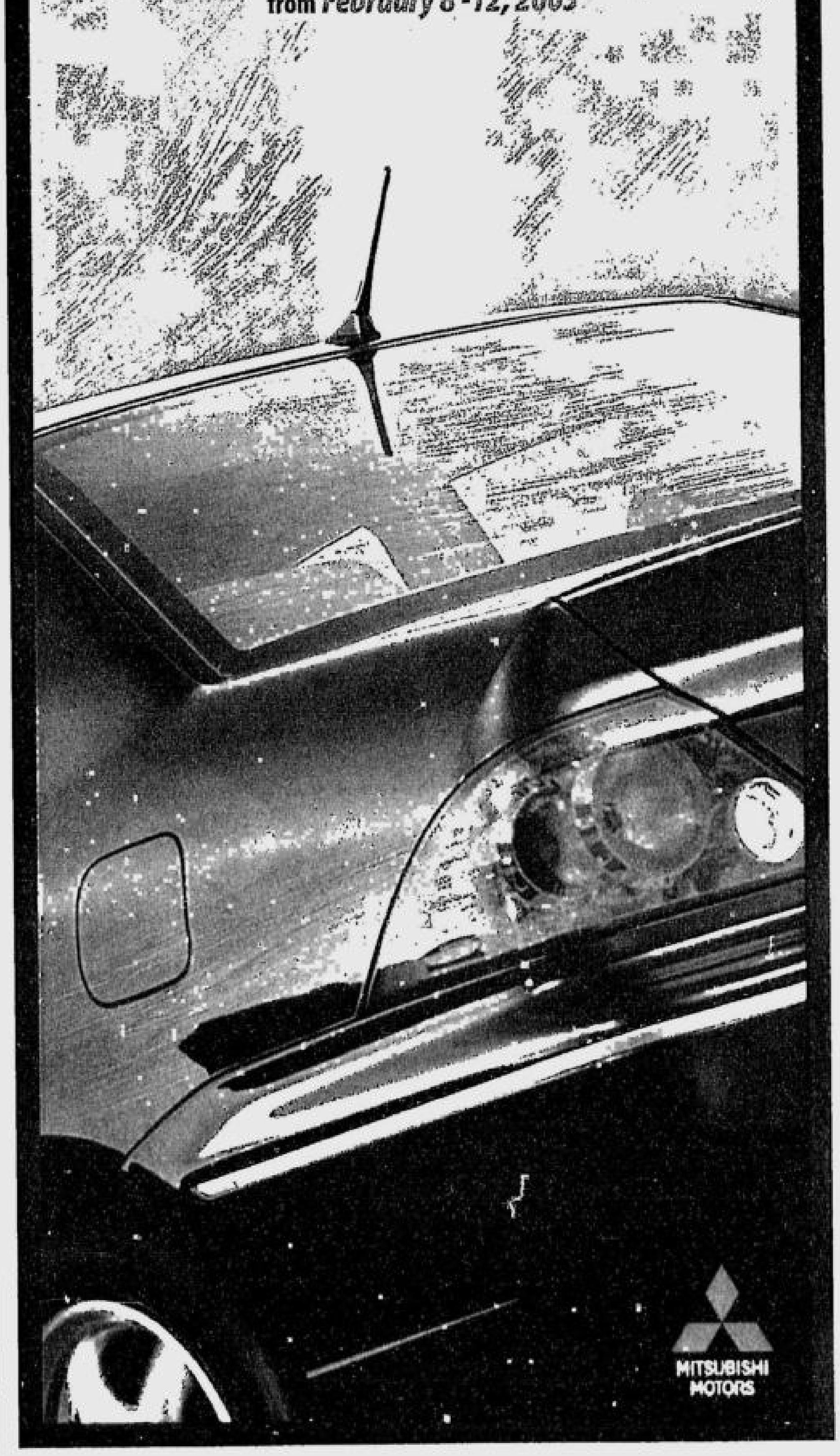
at the Rockwell Powerplant Mall Parking Area

Test drive the All-New Mitsubishi Lancer
at the Rockwell Powerplant Mall Parking Area
from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
On the following dates:
February 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9, 2003

See the All-New Mitsubishi Lancer plus other
2003 Mitsubishi Vehicles
at the Glorietta Activity Center
from February 8 -12, 2003



Federal Reserve leaves interest rates unchanged

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve policymakers left interest rates at a four-decade low Wednesday, banking the economy would awaken from its torpor when war clouds lift and high oil prices retreat.

Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan and his colleagues voted unanimously to leave the federal funds target rate, which commercial banks charge each other for overnight loans, at 1.25 percent.

"Oil price premiums and other aspects of geopolitical risks have reportedly fostered continued restraint on spending and hiring by businesses," the Federal Open Market Committee said in a statement.

"However, the committee believes that as those risks lift, as most analysts expect, the accommodative stance of monetary policy, coupled with ongoing growth in productivity, will provide support to an improving economic climate over time."

Policymakers agreed, as expected, to keep the economic growth and inflation outlook neutral, meaning they had no particular leaning towards cutting or raising rates in the foreseeable future.

The Federal Reserve had been expected to tread carefully so as not to feed nerves on financial markets just a day after President George W. Bush braced the country for possible war against Iraq.

The two-day committee meeting wrapped up a day before the release of of new economic growth figures, which are widely expected to show growth at an annual rate of one percent or less in the fourth quarter.

But "what we can take away from the comments is that the FOMC members believe that their stance is accommodative enough," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

"It is only temporary factors that are holding back growth. If that is true, it will take another shock to get the members to cut rates again. That could occur, but the onset of a war with Iraq would not be enough. The war would have to go wrong in some way."

The Federal Reserve's willingness to hold the line on interest rates indicated that policymakers believed they already were in an "extremely aggressive" policy stance, Naroff said. "And if they do feel that way, you can be sure they will feel the need to unwind that aggressive stance rapidly when growth does return." Swiss Re chief US economist Kurt Karl agreed. *AFP*

ADB raises share of project funding in developing nations

MANILA—The Asian Development Bank will substantially increase its share of funding for projects in developing member countries to help them tide over fiscal and other financial constraints, officials said.

The Manila-based bank's funding share has been between 40 and 80 percent of the cost of projects since 1998.

Effective Jan. 1, 2003, ADB's minimum share would rise to 65 percent, but the ceiling would remain largely unchanged, Ann Quon, the bank's director of external relations, said.

"The bottom line is that the ADB is now able to provide a larger proportion of project cost financing than done previously," she said.

Although the change applies only to new project loans, it will be a welcome relief to nearly 33 countries banking on the ADB for funding of projects ranging from microfinance banking to sewage systems.

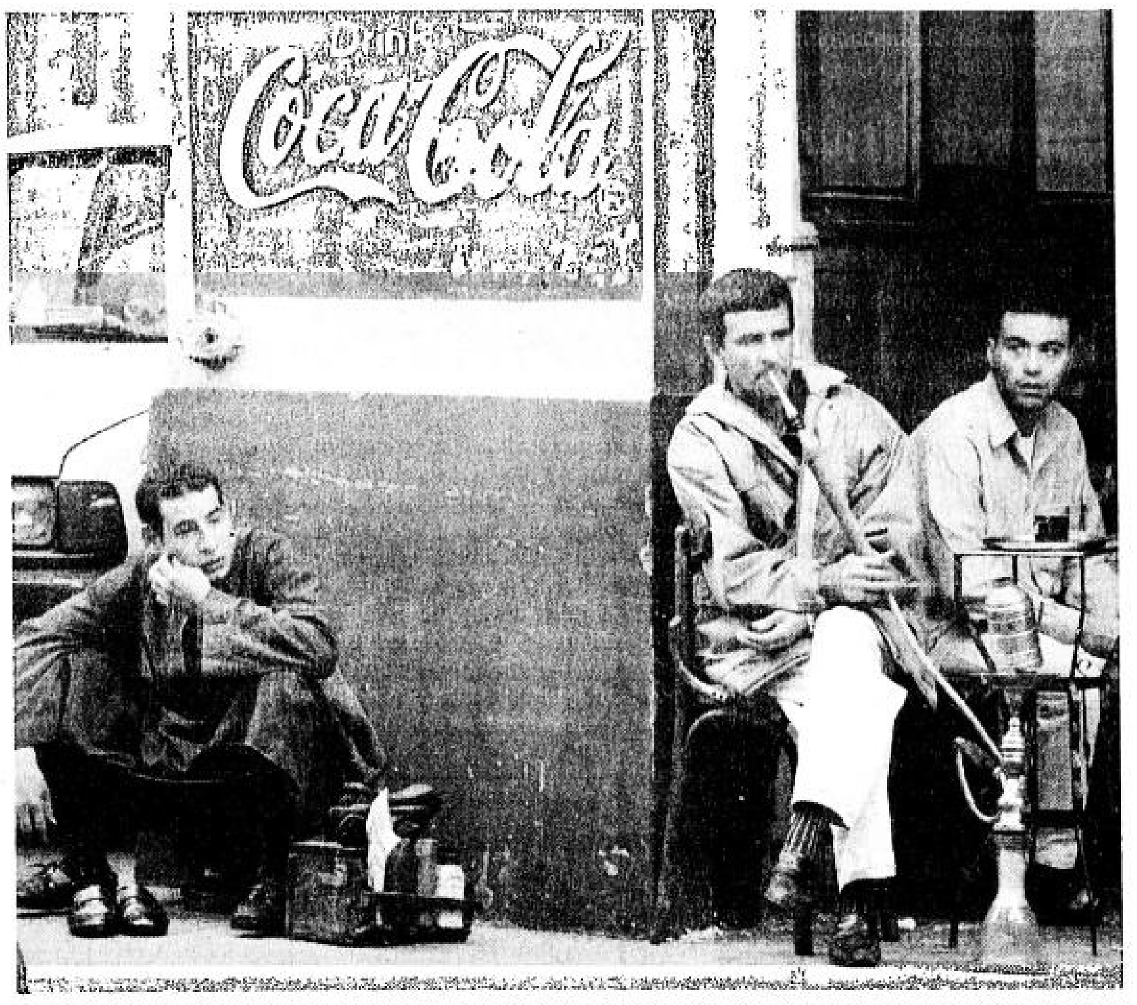
Compared with other multilateral financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the ADB gives the smallest funding share for projects.

"The new ruling will now narrow the difference between ADB and the other multilateral financial institutions in terms of percentage of project share funding," Quon said.

In devising the change, the ADB also considered the tighter fiscal situation in the region and the "lingering" effects of the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and 1998 and the subsequent Russian financial crisis, she added.

Last year, the ADB lent a total of $5.7 billion by taking stakes in 76 projects, mostly in Asia, including in Afghanistan where it resumed operations for the first time in 23 years.

ADB's loan value is expected to increase substantially in 2003 with its higher share in project funding. *AFP*



EGYPTIANS sit at a coffee shop in Cairo. A decision by President Hosni Mubarak government to allow the markets to set rates for foreign exchange has further hit its already weakened currency amid fear that the move will increases prices and cause a social backlash. AP

Hitachi to dump loss-making units

TOKYO—Japanese electronics giant Hitachi said Thursday it would quit unprofitable operations that accounted for around 20 percent of its revenue over the next one to two years.

Under a new three-year business plan, Hitachi Ltd. is aiming to achieve an operating profit margin of more than 5 percent by the year to March 2006.

Hitachi's operating profit margin has been negative for the past two financial years to March 2002.

The company also targets a return on equity of over eight percent in the year to March 2006.

Hitachi jumped back into profit in the six months to September due to cost cutting efforts, but slashed its full year profit forecast because of sluggish demand. *AFP*

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Analyze this? More American companies ditch forecasts

CHICAGO—It's time for Wall Street analysts to dig out the calculators, readjust those performance models and start crunching numbers again.

After years of spoon-fed corporate earnings projections—first with a wink and nod and more recently with formal forecasts from executive suites—analysts in some cases will have to, well, analyze companies and come up with their own forecasts.

Analysts and investors have come to depend on formal earnings projections to measure the financial health of companies. That's why recent decisions by several of Wall Street's bellwethers, including McDonald's Corp. , Coca-Cola Co. and AT&T Corp., to stop providing those estimates shocked market players.

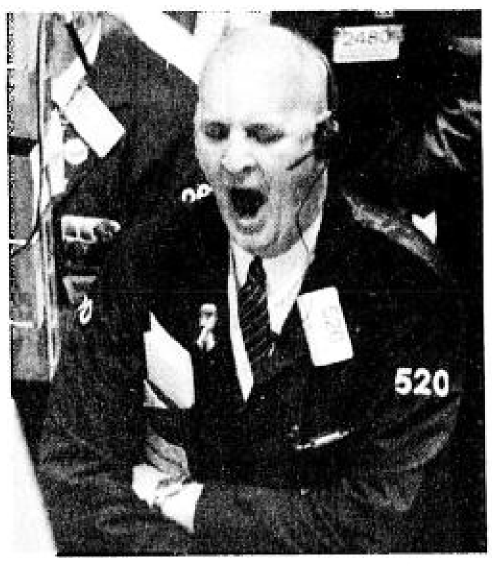
"Analysts are going to once again have to do their jobs—forecast earnings and forecast cash flow based on analysis, not parroting the CFO or treasurer," said Manny Goldman, a California-based consumer products consultant who worked as a Wall Street analyst for 30 years.

Some companies are abandoning earnings projections because it frees them from the tyranny of having to meet short-term targets and instead focus on long-term strategies. In some cases, executives have been so compulsive about meeting short-term figures that they fraudulently manipulated numbers to reach targets.

"It allows (companies) to take a longer-term focus on where they want to guide the business and not necessarily (focus on) meeting a specific number that they have laid out on the table for the Wall Street investment community," said Tim Drake, consumer nondurable goods analyst at Banc One Investment Advisors. Drake follows Gillette Co., which stopped offering earnings guidance about two years ago.

Coca-Cola kicked off the latest trend last month by abandoning its long-standing practice of providing quarterly and annual forecasts. The world's No. 1 soft drink maker said the move did not reflect any deterioration in its business and noted that it was positioned for strong growth in 2003.

McDonald's also said it would no longer provide quarterly projections, and AT&T scrapped its quarterly and annual outlooks. Sun Microsystems earlier this month also said it would stop giving mid-quarter financial updates.



A TRADER on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yawns early in the trading day. Most US companies now would rather not issue outlooks than be wrong again. AFP

Other companies like General Electric Co. have started offering wider ranges for earnings estimates because times are so uncertain.

Others, though, said the move illustrated the desire of some companies to steer clear of delivering bad news in a tough market environment. Goldman noted that some companies have not been very good at forecasting results, which he said probably contributed to their decisions to stop issuing outlooks.

"They would rather not say anything than be wrong again," Goldman said. "If they could (forecast), they would. But they can't."

Giving formal projections became the norm during the tech boom in the mid-1990s. Rampant rumors on Wall Street about companies' upcoming earnings numbers led to Regulation Fair Disclosure, which prompted companies to broadcast expectations through outlooks and preannouncements to ensure analysts had equal access to information. *Reuters*

Auditor KPMG charged with fraud

WASHINGTON—The US Securities and Exchange Commission on Wednesday filed civil fraud charges against audit firm KPMG, alleging it failed to catch accounting misdeeds at Xerox Corp.

The SEC also charged four KPMG partners in connection with the audits of Xerox between 1997 and 2000.

KPMG defended its actions and expressed confidence it would be vindicated.

The SEC's lawsuit, filed in federal district court in New York, charges the firm and four partners with fraud, and seeks injunctions, disgorgement of all fees and civil money penalties.

The securities regulator alleges that KPMG and its partners permitted Xerox to manipulate its accounting practices to close a three billion dollar "gap" between actual operating results and results reported to the investing public.

KPMG was the auditor for Xerox, which was accused last year of betraying investors in a four-year scheme to inflate earnings, hailing a record 10 million dollar fine against the copier giant.

Two months later, Xerox revised downward its pretax profit by $1.4 billion over a five-year period and wrote down its equity by $1.3 billion.

The SEC complaint noted that although KPMG and its auditors "occasionally voiced concern to Xerox management" about the accounting devices, they "did little or nothing when Xerox ignored their concerns and continued manipulating its financial results."

"The defendants then knowingly or recklessly set aside their reservations, failed in their professional duties as auditors, and gave a clean bill of health to Xerox's financial statements," the SEC statement said. *AFP*

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Kelvinator

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BEYOND 2003

Raul Joseph A. Concepcion
Chief Operating Officer

Renna Hechanova-Angeles
Executive Vice President

MARKET LEADERSHIP THROUGH GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Since its inception four decades ago, Concepcion Industries Inc. (CII) has remained consistent with its goal of providing the Filipino consumers with high quality products and services that provided comfort in numerous homes, offices and communities. Its line of air conditioning products exemplify the ingenuity and commitment of the Filipino for distinction and excellence. Guided by the forthright values of hard work and integrity bequeathed by its founder Jose Concepcion, Sr. to his family, CII grew to become one of the country's major corporation enjoying a leadership position as well as a profitable operation in the domestic airconditioning market.

THE DYNAMICS OF PRODUCTS AND CONSUMERS

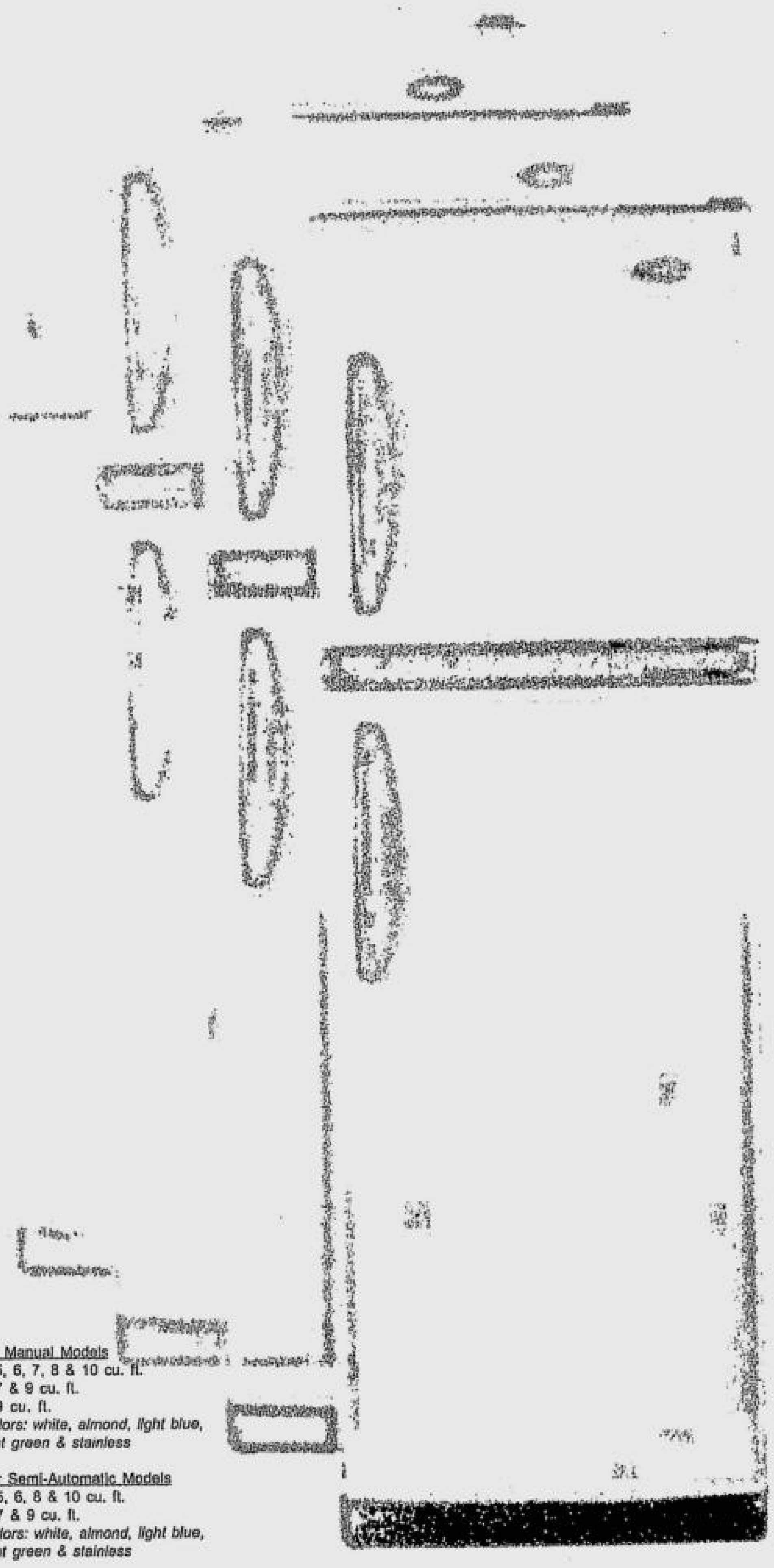
CII has long since recognized the crucial value of understanding their consumers as the foundation of their preeminence in the local market. This focus has enabled the company to keep apace with the changing preferences of an increasingly demanding Clientele. Through investments in technology typified by its world-class manufacturing facilities, Research and Development Centers and Quality Assurance Laboratories, CII has continuously been the epitome of technical knowledge and expertise in the fields of airconditioning, refrigeration and communication in the country. Its Condura and Kelvinator brands are leaders in their market segments.

Today, under the stewardship of the third generation of the Concepcion siblings, CII has taken a closer view of its market and its network of dealers to ensure that their customers enjoy more values in terms of product features, a wider array of choices to suit their diverse needs and the convenience of availability. Underlying this product orientation is an infrastructure for service excellence and customer satisfaction typified by its pro-active after-sales services.

BEYOND 2003: MARKET DOMINANCE IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Exploiting its core strength of developing brands that cater to specific market niches, CII has further refined its segmentation of the market with the purpose of introducing new brands for more reach and coverage. It is also forming strategic partnerships and forging new and strong alliances in its goal of enhancing its technical capabilities. Realizing the tremendous impact of globalization on local businesses, CII pursued a clear and deliberate strategy of structuring the company since 1990, not only to absorb its impact but to harness its potential for growth and profitability.

At the onset of the 21st century, CII has the resources, financial capacity, technology and infrastructure to provide its customers world-class products and, at the same time, achieve global competitiveness through its strategic initiatives. Surmounting the dire predictions of adversity wrought by globalizing trends, CII has attained a position of competitive advantage that ensures its prominence in the appliance market in both the local and global levels.



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Condura/Kelvinator Semi-Automatic Models
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AOL reports big loss; Turner stepping down

NEW YORK—Fourth-quarter losses skyrocketed at AOL Time Warner Inc. after a staggering $45.5-billion charge to account for the struggling media conglomerate's plunging value. The company also announced Wednesday that former cable TV mogul Ted Turner was stepping down as vice chair.

In the three months ending Dec. 31, AOL lost $44.9 billion, or $10.04 a share, compared with a loss of $1.8 billion, or 41 cents a share, in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Revenue rose 8 percent to $11.4 billion, and AOL said its results without the one-time accounting markdown would actually have beaten Wall Street estimates—at 28 cents a share instead of the 26 cents and $11.2 billion in revenue predicted by Thomson First Call.

Turner, who pioneered cable television and built CNN before selling to Time Warner in 1996, will leave in May. He has long been reported to be unhappy with his diminished role since the merger with AOL, but AOL chief Richard Parsons said Turner wants to spend more time on his philanthropic endeavors.

"He's concluded now is the right time to make more space for his other activities," Parsons said in a conference call with analysts.

Turner's exit coincides with the pending departure of chair Steve Case, the America Online cofounder, putting the disparate histories of AOL Time Warner's divisions even further into the past as the mammoth company plots its turnaround.

Whether Turner, who owns nearly 3.5 percent of the company, will remain on AOL's board at all will be determined in the next few weeks, spokesperson Mia Carbonell said.

Analysts had been expecting AOL take a goodwill writedown but were surprised by its enormity.

Executives said they expected 2003 revenue to grow "in the mid-single-digits" and earnings before taxes, depreciation and amortization to be essentially flat.

Two years after AOL and Time Warner's $106-billion merger, the company has been forced to justify the rationale for the deal and overcome questions about its accounting.

The bright spot has been Time Warner's media properties, which include CNN, Warner Music, Time and People magazines and the Warner Bros. film division that boasts blockbuster franchises like "Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings."

The weak link has been the AOL online division, which now hopes for a jolt from expanding high-speed Internet access. *AP*

FILE photo shows CNN founder Ted Turner acknowledging the crowd during CNN's 20th anniversary bash at Philips Arena in Atlanta, GA. Turner, who built a media empire from his cable channels, will leave his post as vice president at AOL Time Warner. AFP

New brands boost Coke Q4 profit

ATLANTA—Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc., the world's largest bottler of Coca-Cola soft drinks, on Wednesday reported a higher-than-expected fourth-quarter profit on increased pricing and solid demand for new brands like Vanilla Coke.

The bottler's executives also said they were optimistic about future pricing growth, especially in North America, its largest and most important market.

In recent years, a weak economy and stiff competition from other bottlers had stymied the Atlanta-based company's efforts to significantly hike prices and help it absorb higher costs for concentrate, the key ingredient in soft drinks.

That has changed, however, because of the appeal of new products coupled with less stiff competition from other bottlers like main rival Pepsi Bottling Group Inc. , analysts say.

Coke Enterprises, which is about 40 percent owned by Coca-Cola Co. , said it earned $77 million, or 17 cents a share, in the fourth quarter compared with a year-earlier loss of $36 million, or 8 cents a share, including nonrecurring items. *Reuters*

AOL TIME WARNER CENTER

AOL Time Warner announces its earnings for the final quarter of 2002 as their new headquarters is under contruction on the west side of Manhattan in New York. The company posted a $44.9-billion fourth-quarter loss, hurt by asset write-downs. The loss, which works out to $10.04 a share, was due to a $45.5-billion asset-impairment write-down. The loss compares with a loss of $1.8 billion, or 41 cents a share, a year earlier. AP

Canon logs record Q4 earnings

TOKYO—Canon Inc reported on Thursday a 13.8-percent rise in 2002 profit on brisk sales of digital cameras, and said profits would rise further this year to mark a fourth straight record-breaking term.

Canon is currently Japan's most profitable company outside the auto sector thanks to its strength in the high-margin office machine market and the surge in demand for digital cameras, which account for about a fifth of its sales.

The world's leading maker of office machines made 190.7 billion yen ($1.6 billion) in group net profit as it slashed materials costs and boosted sales by 1.1 percent to 2.94 trillion yen. Net profit was 167.6 billion yen in 2001.

The profit, reported under US accounting standards, was above Canon's own estimate for the January-December business year, but in line with market expectations. *Reuters*

Americans 'keep on truckin' in their SUVs

DETROIT—Keep on truckin'.

That advice, straight from Detroit and the 1970s hit by the late Motown singer Eddie Kendricks, sums up the way many Americans feel about recent attacks on sport utility vehicles.

In a land where bigger is usually perceived as better, Americans love SUVs and their high-perch "command" seating.

They're not going to give them up, and there's no sign that environmentalists and anti-SUV activists will succeed in driving the gas-guzzlers into the junkyard of history anytime soon.

In fact, thanks to a White House plan to provide more generous tax breaks for certain businesses that buy the biggest SUVs or pick-up trucks, the sales of oversized vehicles with low gas mileage may even get a big boost in the near term.

Recent US television ads from a Hollywood group led by nationally syndicated columnist and author Arianna Huffington, are pitching alleged links between Mideast oil profits and terrorism, trying to make owning an SUV sound tantamount to bankrolling Osama bin Laden.

A coalition of religious groups, including dozens of evangelical Christian organizations, sponsored another TV advertising campaign late last year seeking to portray SUV owners as outcasts by asking "What Would Jesus Drive?"

The top US auto safety regulator joined the fray this month by warning vehicle manufacturers that SUVs, which statistics show may be prone to roll over, may soon come under strict government controls.

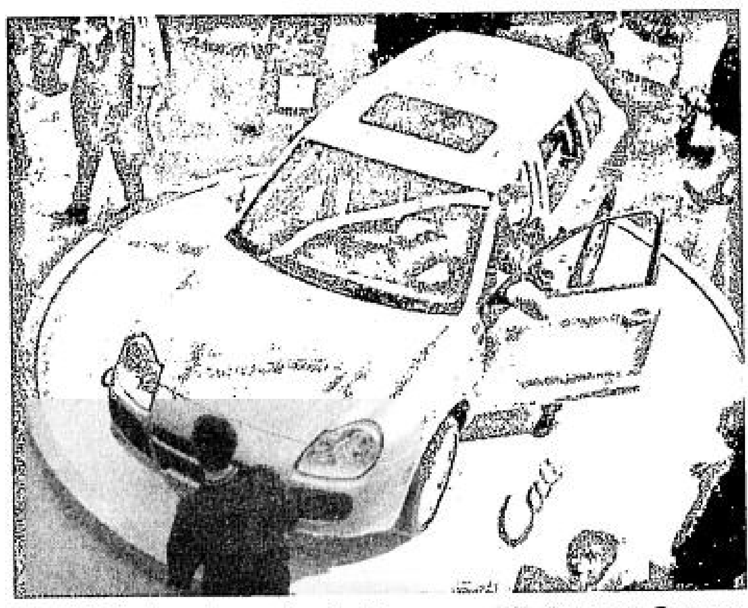
Although the main concern about SUV safety centers on their higher susceptibility to roll over in crashes, critics say they also pose an increased danger in accidents with smaller cars, whose occupants are especially vulnerable in side impacts.

Nevertheless, traditional SUVs gained a larger piece of the U.S. vehicle market last year, and light trucks—a category that includes pick-ups and mini-vans as well as SUVs—account for more than half of the market overall.

Industry experts, meanwhile, say the anti-SUV crusade has failed to resonate with consumers, even as another US-led war with Iraq looks set to push oil prices higher and add to the debate over America's seemingly insatiable appetite for crude.

"I like everything about it, the size, everything," said Detroit-based disc jockey Rocky Allen, as he climbed into the driver's seat of his Chevrolet Suburban SUV in the "oversized" section of an office parking lot.

"I'll be happy to drive an electric car when Arianna Huffington stops flying private jets and uses solar heat in her 5,000-square-foot home," Allen said, taking a shot at the political commentator and her so-called Detroit Project activist group. *Reuters*



VISITORS look at the new Porsche Cayenne model in Stuttgart, Germany. Despite recent television ads against sport-utility vehicles like this one, US consumers are unlikely to give up their gas guzzlers. AFP

Japan aims for sweeping deregulation

TOKYO—In an effort to bring about comprehensive deregulation of the Japanese economy, the government has decided to compile an action plan of 15 to 20 priority measures for implementation by March 2005, a news report said Thursday.

The government intends to select priority measures that are expected to have a significant impact on creating jobs and demand, such as allowing stock companies to run hospitals and schools, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

The details of the plan will be spelled out in February by the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, which is chaired by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, the newspaper said.

"Until now, many reform measures have been postponed due to opposition from government ministries and agencies with vested interests," the Nihon Keizai said.

"But the government, believing that vigorous reform is essential in revitalizing the economy, has decided to expedite deregulation by having the prime minister supervise the efforts directly," it said.

One of the priority measures under consideration is a proposal to allow stock companies to manage hospitals and schools, an idea that has met opposition from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, the newspaper said. *AFP*

NEC, Philips in Internet phone tieup

TOKYO—Japan's NEC and Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands said Thursday they had agreed to form a strategic partnership over Internet protocol telephone technology.

The two firms will provide each other with telecommunications equipment and expertise for IP telephone services and will jointly develop applications software for them, the companies said in a joint statement.

The firms will first focus on equipment for office buildings, such as private branch exchange systems and routers, an NEC spokesperson said.

The partnership will allow the firms to expand their products. *AFP*

For Burgundy's wine makers, imitation isn't the sincerest form of flattery

DIJON, France—French wine makers from Bourgogne—or Burgundy—do not agree that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Show them a California vintage with "Chablis" on the label and they are far more likely to cry foul than take it as a compliment.

Only wines coming from the region bearing the same name, they argue, should have that right. Anyone else slapping "Chablis" on a bottle is illegitimately cashing in on the reputation of the best-known non-sparkling white wine in the world, they say.

This long-standing grievance has flared again in recent months, and the Burgundy wine establishment—along with their colleagues in neighboring Champagne, who confront the same problem—has launched a two-pronged campaign to curb abuses by foreign wine industries.

The worst offenders are the Americans, who produce and market 1.2 million to 1.5 million hectoliters of "fake" Chablis per year, according to Bernard Hervet, president of the Chablis chapter of the Inter-professional Burgundy Wine Office (IBWO). Smaller amounts also come from Argentina and Australia.

The Chablis region itself—a couple hundred kilometers south-east of Paris—produces less than 200,000 hectoliters annually.

Adding insult to injury, American Chablis is made from less than noble grapes (Thomas Seedless, hybrids, ugni blanc) and is usually sold for a few dollars a bottle. It tastes nothing, in other words, like its namesake.

"It's a wine that is bought not because of what's in the bottle, but on the bottle," says Hervet, who is also the general manager of Bouchard Pere et Fils, a major exporter.

Even if it would seem easy enough to distinguish the real deal from pale pretenders, French producers point out that Chablis sales, despite its reputation, are four times less than other white wines from Burgundy.

"It is very difficult to sell Chablis to the United States even though it is a big market for white wines," laments Hervet, who handles exports for a number of Chablis producers.

Burgundy producers highlighted their concerns in October in New York at Vinexpo, the most important professional trade show in the wine business. One aim was to raise awareness of the issue in the United States. Another was to lobby European officials to take a hard line on foreign wines misusing French appellations in upcoming World Trade Organization talks.

To help make their case, Chablis vintners have forged an alliance with other fine food and wine producing regions in France and elsewhere in Europe whose fame is also a mixed blessing. Champagne producers have recently launched an advertising campaign in US media under the slogan, "If it's not from Champagne, it's simply not true Champagne."

The association of aggrieved producers covers Sherry from England, Parma ham and Reggiano parmesan in Italy, and Porto wine from Portugal. The group lobbies their cause before the European Parliament in Strasbourg and the European Commission in Brussels.

Big US wine makers have said they may be willing to give up the use of names like "Champagne," "Chablis" and "Burgundy" in exchange for substantial compensation and reduction on tariffs to ease sale of US wines in Europe.

"There is a historical process that is moving toward banning the misuse" of place names, says Hervet, "even if some major players absolutely want to continue this practice. We have to gradually convince our American friends that it is ultimately not in their interest to produce a poor-quality Chablis." *AFP*

LOBBY FOR LIBERALIZATION

Services sector seeks support from government

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FORMER Asian Institute of Management president and newly elected chair of the STI Education Services Group Felipe B. Alfonso is urging the government to step up its lobbying efforts to force developed countries fulfill their commitments to open up their services sector.

Alfonso said the Philippine government had not done enough to push the interest of the services sector which he believed was the country's most potent export. Alfonso joined last month the group of businessman Eusebio Tanco who took over STI in 2000.

Tanco, STI ESG president, said the government had focused more on the liberalization of goods and neglected the services sector in its past negotiations with the World Trade Organization.

He said the government should have the same zeal in removing the curbs on the hiring of Filipino nurses, teachers and other service professionals in job-rich countries in seeking the lowering of trade barriers for the country's exports.

Tanco said the STI group invited Alfonso to give more credibility to the board and share his management and entrepreneurial expertise to the masses.

Under the Tanco group, STI has decided to expand its information technology-based curriculum to include healthcare, education and accounting to churn out more Filipino graduates in service areas that were in brisk demand overseas.

STI has earmarked P250 million for its planned expansion this year to be used in acquiring more institutions specializing in healthcare, engineering, and accounting and to bankroll its backward integration with the establishment of high school institutions. Last year, STI acquired De Los Santos Colleges to form its STI Professional College of Nursing and tied up with Philippine accounting giant SGV & Co. to beef up its accounting curriculum to produce more workers adept in backroom operations.

Pampanga execs want gov't to privatize Christmas Village

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Members of the provincial board of Pampanga have asked the Department of Tourism and Philippine Tourism Authority to privatize the financially struggling Philippine Christmas Village, formerly known as Paskuhan Village, here.

In a resolution passed on Monday, the board also allowed the creation of a provincial council on culture and arts to be chaired by Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid.

Board members said a private firm should manage the Christmas Village, so it could showcase the products of Pampanga and the rest of Central Luzon. The complex is presently managed by the Philippine Tourism Authority.

Board member Lilia Pineda said a privatized Christmas Village could accommodate various establishments and restaurants for tourists and motorists using the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Highway.

Another board member, Robert David, proposed the leasing of the Christmas Village to retail giant firm Rustan's, which could showcase Kapampangan products.

The council would be in charge of formulating programs to develop local cultural and artistic talents of residents and boost tourism in the province.

Built in 1990, the 9.3-hectare Christmas Village was designed to showcase traditional Filipino practices. It is supposed to attract local and foreign visitors year round but this did not materialize.

There was a proposal to put up a casino at the complex but it was swamped by strong opposition, mainly from the Catholic Church, prompting the Pampanga provincial board to junk it.*Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

RP commits to buy Thai rice

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has confirmed that the Philippines has committed to buy rice from Thailand in exchange for its consent to the retention of the high tariff shields for the Philippine sugar industry up to 2010.

The Philippine government feared, that Thailand, a major sugar exporter in the Asean, might oppose the plan to retain the 50 percent to 64 percent tariff protection enjoyed by the sugar industry. As a compromise, the country offered to buy more rice from Thailand.

Agriculture Undersecretary Arsenio Balisacan said in an interview yesterday that the Department of Trade and Industry had already indicated its approval to the plan to source a substantial portion of the country's rice import requirement from Thailand. However, the actual volume of imports to be committed to Thailand has yet to be set.

Sugar Regulatory Administration chief James Ledesma, who is also part of the negotiations, said the SRA is also working on increasing the country's bound rate commitment to 80 percent to the World Trade Organization

Negotiations for the rice importation and retention of the sugar tariffs were being spearheaded by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II and Thai Commerce Minister Adisai Bodharmik. Ledesma said a memorandum of agreement to govern the deal with Thailand was already being drafted.

Under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (AFTA-CEPT) arrangement, Asean member-countries committed to reduce tariffs on commodities traded in the region to 0 to 5 percent starting Jan. 1.

Christine A. Gaylican

RP-UAE air . . .

From page B20

States, Japan, China and Korea. In that list, the UAE and other Middle East countries were among those scheduled for the second half.

According to Saludo's memorandum , however, the Philippine air panel should be ready to engage in negotiations with the UAE "anytime" and with South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan within the first quarter. India and Myanmar had been lined up for the second half.

Initial talks with the US air panel was slated for Feb. 18 to 20.

The Philippine Embassy in UAE had already gotten in touch with the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs last Tuesday, informing it of the Philippine air panel's request for air talks.

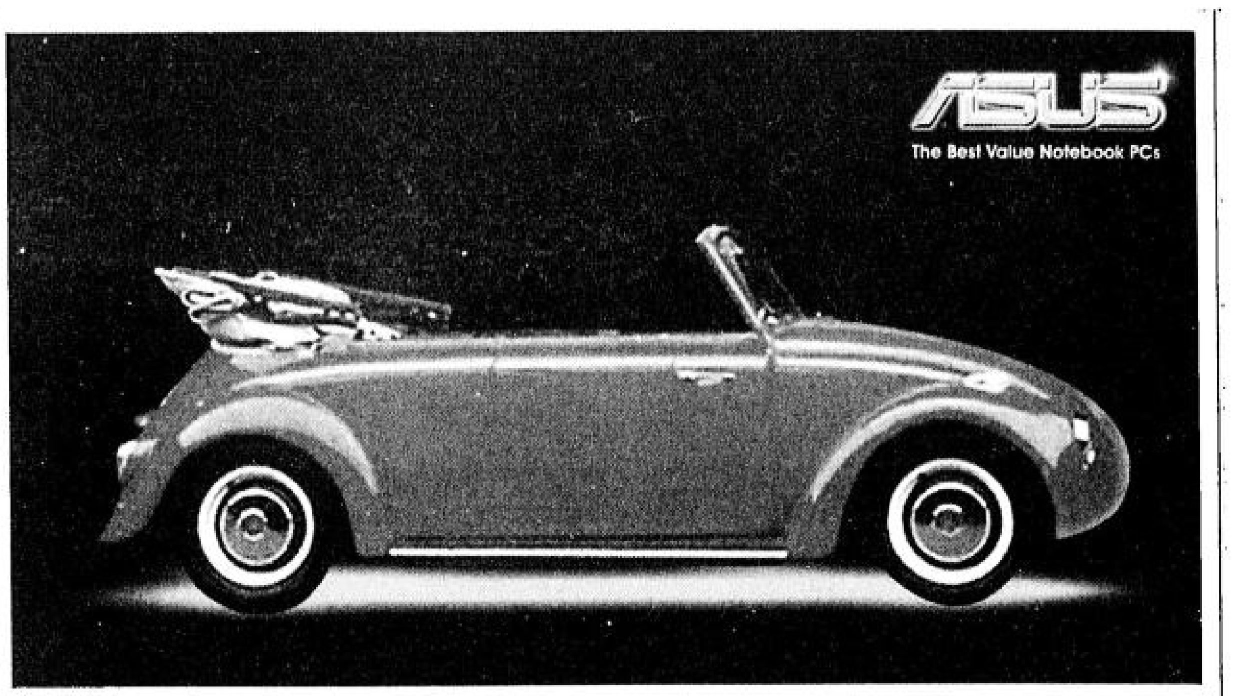
"The Philippine air panel has decided to hold air talks with United Arab Emirates to be held in Manila either on next month's first week (Feb. 3-7, 2003) or next month's last week (Feb. 24-28, 2003)," the letter said.

RP sees . . .

From page B20

such as France and Italy, to block the proposal. Roxas said that Spain and Portugal would only succeed in thumbing down the mediator's settlement offer if both France and Italy back up their position. Roxas said the Philippine government and tuna canners have declined to comment on the offer pending the final decision of the EU.

Roxas refused to comment on Spain's decision not to support its former colony. Last year, Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said: "Spain has to look at this very seriously because Filipinos will not accept the fact that Spain will not support the Philippines. I'm sure Spain has its reasons but this will not be accepted. If it does forsake us, we might be forced to change all our Spanish names." Tuna exports contribute between $100 million and $200 million to the Philippine economy annually over the last five years.



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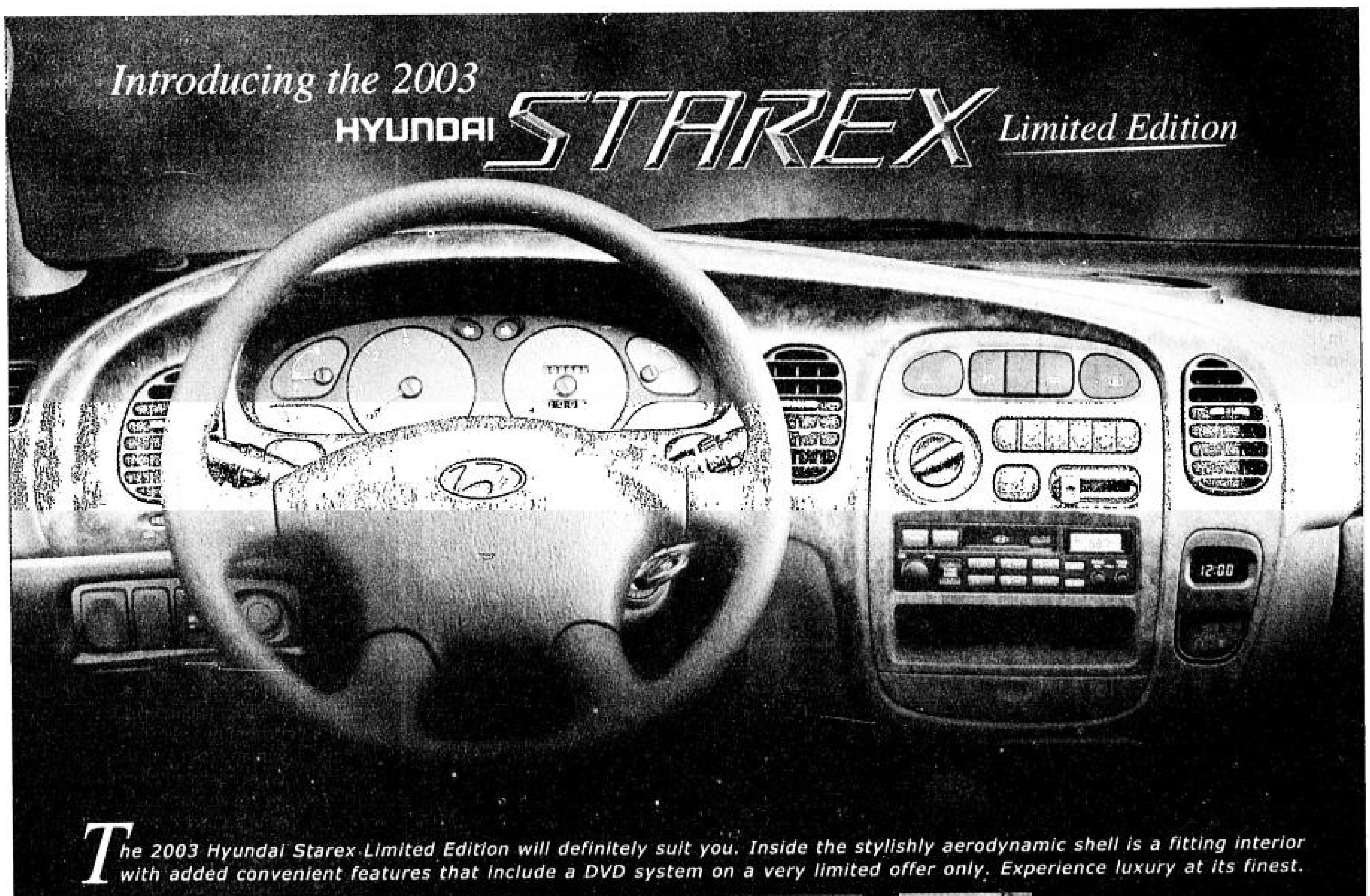
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MDRT Candidate
Commissioner's Cup Qualifier

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Touch Mobile now the country's fastest growing GSM brand

BARELY 15 months in the market, Touch Mobile has already evolved into the country's fastest growing GSM brand preferred by Filipino families, particularly in the suburbs outside Metro Manila where it has opened numerous cell sites.

Since its launch in Sept. 2001, Touch Mobile has already opened more than 2,000 cell sites nationwide with more scheduled to roll out this year. It is now the third largest GSM brand in terms of incremental subscribers uptake.

As early as May last year, Touch Mobile has already achieved its full-year targets of 2002, thus, displacing its chief competitor in terms of total cellular incremental sales.

Powered by Globe Telecom, Touch Mobile provides subscribers with lower per minute rates at P6.50, proven nationwide coverage and unparalleled voice value added services (Voice VAS). It pioneered the P6.50 flat rate for voice calls and has become the industry's template for affordable telephony.

The brand's business remains robust and continues to lead the market as it sees significant growth opportunities this year. Through its support activities and promotional campaigns, Touch Mobile is eyeing even more aggressive increases in subscriber base this year versus last year.

Touch Mobile has also embarked on a pervasive network rollout campaign, starting with the installations of more new cell sites in the provinces. These network rollouts have been paralleled with on-the-ground sales blitzes and roadshows featuring Touch Mobile's very own celebrity endorsers Aga and Charlene Muhlach.

Factors that helped make Touch Mobile the fastest growing GSM brand are its mass-based activities like the affordable P170 SIM pricing, the SIM swap campaign and the unique Voice Services.

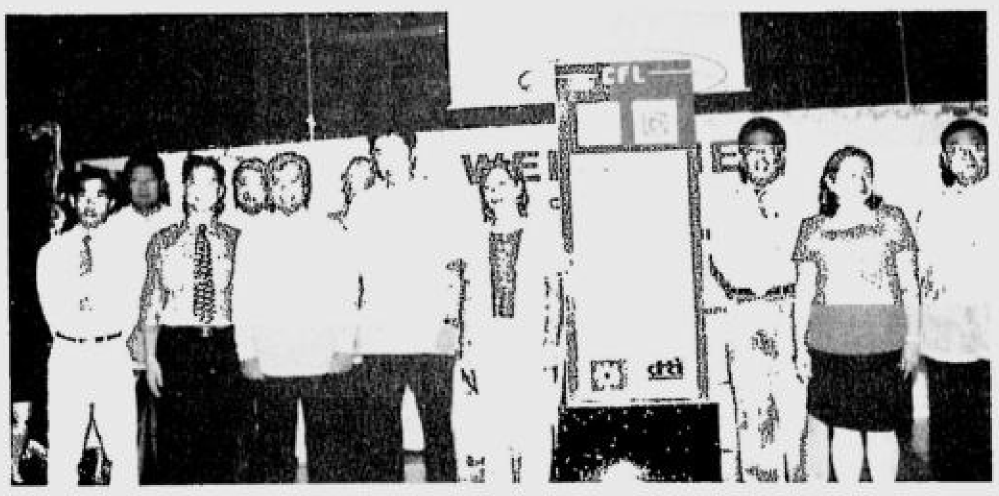
Late last year, Touch Mobile launched its Karaoke Service wherein subscribers can actually sing along to their favorite songs over their phone units, save it in their phone's memory, and even send it to another mobile number. There is also an option to precede the recorded song with a personal dedication. Two hundred popular songs can be accessed by calling 8150 with your Touch Mobile SIM.

This feature has become a big hit among subscribers in Manila and Luzon areas as they find the service unique, appealing and relevant.

Touch Mobile is a product of the Globe Telecom and Islacom integration, which was formalized in January of 2001.

It is now a leading prepaid brand for broad C market, with its low rate per minute at P6.50 for local and mobile-to-mobile calls, family-centric brand character and voice-centric services.

Seen as a warm, family-oriented brand ideal for the mass-based market living and/or working in broad market urban and suburban areas around the country, Touch Mobile is moving to capture the regional areas and expand its network and service presence all over Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.



IMPORTERS SUPPORT DOE-ELI CAMPAIGN

Seven manufacturers/importer volunteered to begin energy labeling on their CFL products as an expression of their support to the Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) Energy Labeling campaign of the Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Joining Energy Secretary Vincent Perez (5th from left) in the launch of the Label were managing representatives of the CFL brands (from left) Akari and Toshiba, Philips, Eurolux, General Electric, Osram, Ultralamp and Gartim. Witnessing the event were (from right) DOE undersecretary Ben-Hur Salcedo; DOE director Teresita Borra and DTI-BPS director Jesus Motoomull.

McDonald's Ang Pao coupons

TO USHER in the New Year, McDonald's treats its customers with red ang pao envelopes filled with coupons that entitle the user to savings as much as 30 percent on your favorite McDonald's items. Considered a gift of good luck and prosperity in the Chinese culture, the ang pao is McDonald's way of welcoming in the year of the ram. Simply present the ang pao coupons at any McDonald's store and enjoy the Big Mac, Quarter Pounder with cheese, and other meal combinations at unbelievably low prices. Promo runs until Feb. 15 and is valid for dine-in, take out and delivery through 8-McDo.

TIP students win in interschool contests

THE PAST year was a good year for TIP as far as its students garnering top places in various interschool events is concerned.

The Quezon City architecture quiz team composed of Paulo Cadungon, Herbert Recato and Jeffrey Caronan won first place in the team event of the Asaphil National Quiz Competition held at Rizal Technological University last Dec. 2. This is the third time that the TIPQC architecture quiz team won in the same event. Jeffrey Caronan and Herbert Recato also placed second and third, respectively, in the individual category. Grace Bacani placed third in the Asaphil essay writing contest. The TIPQC quizzers were coached by architects Dennis Rabe and Ma. Antonia Jennifer Nardo.

Other achievements of the TIP architecture quiz teams include the second place finish by Herbert Recato and Mary Krisitine Pastor of Quezon City in the United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary (UAPSA) National Arki Quiz Competition held at the Island Cove Resort in Cavite last April 14 to 16, and the third place finish by Tony Andro Taguinod and Lizel Lloret of TIP Manila in the Ark Wiz Interschool Competition held at the UP Diliman last Feb. 28.

In the Wind Powered Vehicle Design Contest held during the 4th Mechanical Engineering Student Congress at the Mapua Institute of Technology last Nov. 28 to 29, the team from TIP-QC won the Best Design Award. Under the tutelage of engineers Randy Tomeo and Rian Bautista, the team was composed of Ariel Cardona, Dick Manuel Clemente, Fernando dela Cruz, Ricky Fernandez, Louwell Gueta, Elmer Guiral, Jesus Sarmiento, Joel Suan, Renualdo Sy, and Mervin Enriquez.

Last March 16, the ME quiz team of Manila, composed of Joel Sebastian, Marxileni Macasaet, Richelle Caballero, Michael Cusi and Michael Venturero placed second in the 26th PSME NCR Regional Conference Interschool Student Quiz held at Tesda, Taguig MM. The team's coach was engineer Nicanor Serrano.

The TIP Manila and QC IT quizzers copped the two places in the Interschool IT Quiz Bee held at UE-Manila last Feb. 28. Glennard Reyes and Ernesto Talabucon Jr. of Manila and William Tengco and Michael Palad of Quezon City placed first and second respectively. The IT quizzers were coached by Manuel Erisc (Manila) and Elsa Isip and Marthy Par (QC).

The EE quiz team of Manila composed of Noel Castañeda and Andre Villanueva garnered second place in the 16th IIEE Regional Quiz Show held at the PICC last Sept. 7. The team's coaches were engineers Cabrera, Sanchez and Velasco.

Quezon City's Willard Pelayo and Herman Timoteo also copped second and third places, respectively in the 4th IIEE Regional Math Wizard held at the Mapua Institute of Technology last Sept. 5. They were coached by engineers Amador Nepomuceno and Ferdinand Milan.

Niño Payduan, a civil engineering student placed second in the 2002 National Engineering Student Quiz Regional Elimination held at the DPWH-NCR last Oct. 21. He was coached by engineers Lucia Ortega, Eduardo Borres, Robert Medina and Dennis Marcelo.

Meanwhile, the TIP Choral Society won over fifty other choirs from all over Metro Manila when they became champion in the Star Christmas Chorale Competition held at the Starmall last Dec. 15. The TIPCS is under the musical leadership of Oneill Torres, an alumnus of the world-renowned Ateneo Glee Club.

Chinese New Year at Macau Restaurant

IN APPRECIATION of its continued patronage of customers for the past two years, Macau Restaurant, the only local restaurant that serves genuine Macanese cuisine, invites everyone in celebrating its second anniversary at its Eastwood, Libis branch starting Jan. 27 to Feb. 2. For an even bigger impact. Macau Restaurant will also celebrate the Chinese New Year with a series of activities.

Thus, expect a grand celebration because it's a double treat event for all the people who gave their total support to Macau Restaurant. And to show their appreciation, the people behind Macau Restaurant decided to make a one-of-a-kind Chinese festival to overwhelm those who will participate in this big event.

On Feb. 1, 8 p.m., a Dragon and Lion Dance will kick off the event, followed by a buffet dinner with more than 40 dishes that include roast duck, sucking pig, prawns, crabs, steak and other sumptuous dishes for P495+. Macau Restaurant managers said the rationale behind serving a huge choice of dishes is that the beginning of the year should be celebrated with abundance so there would be lots of blessings for the rest of the year.

Furthermore, Macau Restaurant wants to bring awareness to its clientele that the abundance of food should be appreciated. A Family day will be the theme for Feb. 2, starting with lunch and a whole afternoon of family activities, and once again a Chinese New year buffet.

Other highlights of the weeklong affair are a Chinese Bazaar that will sell Chinese sweets, lucky charms, artifacts and decorations. There will be a daily hourly raffle for guests to enable them to enjoy their stay at Macau Restaurant. For guests who want to try their luck, there will be a Roulette Wheel that offers special prizes to lucky winners. For reservations, call Macau restaurant at 421-1171 and 421-1172.

A SAMPLING of the Macau Restaurant feast: Macau fried rice sautéed with shrimps, squid and roasted pork with black olives and bell peppers.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **Janitorial and Security Services** for the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **27 January 2003** to be submitted not later than **7 February 2003, 5:00 P.M.** through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **February 11** to **12, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) through the BAC Secretariat.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **February 17, 2003** at **2:00 P.M.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **February 28, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** and **28 February 2003 at 2:15 P.M.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit bids in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes; the first envelope containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with "Executive Order 40".

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

EDGARDO V. CABARIOS
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Jan 24 & 31, 2003)

BITS Clips

International colleges' search for scholars

THE UNITED World Colleges, in coordination with Ayala Foundation Inc., is searching for top-caliber fourth-year high school students interested in pursuing a two-year international baccalaureate course abroad. Selected students will be sent on full scholarships to either UWC of the Pacific in British Columbia, Canada, or UWC of the Adriatic in Trieste, Italy. Applicants must belong to the top 10 percent of their class and pass a qualifying examination to be administered by AFI. Students and their parents also have to attend free a symposium on the UWC movement. The symposium will be held on Feb 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue beside the Gabriela Silang parking lot at the corner of Makati and Ayala Avenues. Interested parties can call Gigi Virata of the UWC Philippines alumni organization at 841-5379.

LSM Alumni launch

ALUMNI of Lourdes School of Mandaluyong will be holding their First Congress and 2nd Grand Homecoming and Fellowship Night on Feb. 8 at the LSM Campus in Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong. The activities will be highlighted by the official launch of the Sons Of Lourdes (Alumni Association) Inc. or SOL. The theme for this affair is "SOL Rising 2003, Let's Build The Network!" Initiated and organized by LSM Class of 1978 on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, SOL is a step towards strengthening the bonds between the alumni of the school founded by Franciscan Capuchin Fathers in 1960. The activities will commence at 2 p.m. with the SOL Congress at the school's St. Francis Auditorium. Interested parties can call the high school Department of LSM care of Mary Ann Florencio at 631-6356 or Oliver Darvin at 532-4253 for more information.

Dreamscape's field trip package a meaningful learning adventure

SCHOOL field trips are more exciting and meaningful when you provide children a learning adventure that will have them at the edge of their seats. Dreamscape, located at Level 4 of Robinsons Galleria offers just that and more with its Field Trip Package.

Giving a new dimension to school field trips, the package includes a visit to Dreamscape, the country's popular indoor theme park and family entertainment amusement center, the Children's Library and a fastfood chain inside Robinsons Galleria.

Children will have a great time on board the Super Sonic V, a scenic roller coaster that's the highest in the country with an 8-meter drop. They will also be screaming with delight in the Thunder Cruiser, a modern-day upgrade of the popular octopus ride, as well as the Roaring Rapids, the only indoor flume ride in Metro Manila that floats along an 80-meter course. Other exciting rides include the Speed Bugs bump cars, Grand Parade carousel, Wild Wild Wheels, Dream Wheel, and Rainbow Racers. All rides undergo maintenance checks everyday to guarantee the safety of guests.

And there's no need to worry about the rain at Dreamscape, since it's located indoors. Being fully air-conditioned as well, this 3,700-sq.m. children's paradise gives guests a comfortable place to run around and explore its entertainment facilities any day, any month of the year. It is also accessible from different points in Metro Manila.

Dreamscape's Field Trip Package includes a visit to The Children's Library at Robinsons Galleria, where they can satisfy their youthful curiosity by reading, playing, and even watching films. The multimedia center offers a host of educational materials that provide students with a hands-on learning experience.

The fun trip doesn't stop there, though. A trek to the kitchen of a popular fastfood chain is also part of their itinerary.

Inquiries and reservations are welcome at 636-2911 or 636-7641 loc. 192. Look for James Jison or Sandra Nomus.

The power of unity,
the strength of one.

Top Awardees/Quality Agency Circle Awardees

MA. BELEN F. LIZARDO
Top Agency Manager, 2nd place

DENNIES C. SIONGCO
Top Unit Manager, 5th place

E. SOFIA V. GERONG
Top Unit Manager, 2nd place

REMEDIOS A. CLAVERIA
Top PEPS, 6th place

APOLINARIO C. TORRES
Unit Builders' Circle
Top Unit Manager, 1st place

CELIA L. HERNENDEZ
Agency Builders' Circle

MARCELO A. OJAS
Unit Builders' Circle

ARCELITA M. DEE
Top PEPS, 4th place

MARISSA M. RACE
Top PEPS, 3rd place

TERESITA B. CALISAY
Unit Builders' Circle
Top Unit Manager, 4th place

DAYLANDA D. SANCHEZ
Regional Head - Mighty Everest
First Runner-up

VIRGILIO N. REDOR, jr.
Regional Head - Dreamstar
Second Runner-up

PATRICIA J. CUSTODIO
Regional Head - Avalon
Outstanding Region of the Year

CESAR S. MANALO
Top Agency Manager, 4th place

RUBY Q. SEE
Top PEPS, 1st place

JENNIFER A. CATARING
Top Unit Manager, 6th place

MELINDA C. RAÑOLA
Top PEPS, 5th place

CHRISTOPHER F. BENDL
President and Chief Executive Officer

MALAYA GEMMA D. PLATERO
Agency Builders' Circle
Top Agency Manager, 3rd place

FORTUNA D. MORENO
Top Agency Manager, 1st place

JOSEPHINE S.P. BARCIAL
Top Unit Manager, 3rd place
(not in photo)

NELIA M. SULLERA
Top PEPS, 2nd place

MESSAGE

2003 is going to be one of the most exciting years of Manulife in the Philippines. The pace of change within Manulife will be unprecedented and I share the conviction that these changes will set our operations on the path to market leadership.

Over the next year you will see our Philippine companies (MFP and MP) start to work much more closely in all aspects of the business. The convergence of business practices will mirror the international trends as well as the acknowledging of the increasing "regulatory blur" between insurance and non-traditional securities here in the Philippines.

The men and women we honor in the 2003 Annual Awards have demonstrated an extraordinary ability to show outstanding results amidst challenges and obstacles. Through diligent effort, they have become role models to their colleagues in the industry as well as living examples of Manulife's commitment of providing financial security to every Filipino Family.

To all our 2003 Annual Awardees, my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes!

Quality Business Awardees

ARCELITA M. DEE
PEPS Level

MELINDA C. RAÑOLA
PEPS Level

NELIA M. SULLERA
PEPS Level

REMEDIOS A. CLAVERIA
PEPS Level

RUBY Q. SEE
PEPS Level

MARYNOR J. SANTOS
PEPS Level

ZENAIDA V. DELA CRUZ
PEPS Level

BERNADETTE M. STA. MARIA
PEPS Level

APOLINARIO C. TORRES
Unit Manager Level

MARY ANN B. PONTANOS
Unit Manager Level

JENNIFER A. CATARING
Unit Manager Level

E. SOFIA V. GERONG
Unit Manager Level

DENNIES C. SIONGCO
Unit Manager Level

MA. BELEN F. LIZARDO
Agency Manager Level

CESAR S. MANALO
Agency Manager Level

Manulife

Producers Circle

The success of one. The pride of all.

Top Awardees

VIVIEN GARCIA
Chairman's Council
MDRT Candidate

ROVELITA CHUAUNSU
Chairman's Council
1 Star Master Builder
MDRT Candidate

CATHERINE YU
Chairman's Council
MDRT Candidate

ROMMEL DELA ROSA
Chairman's Council
MDRT Candidate

BETTY ALEJANDRO
Hall of Famer
3 Star Master Builder
MDRT Candidate

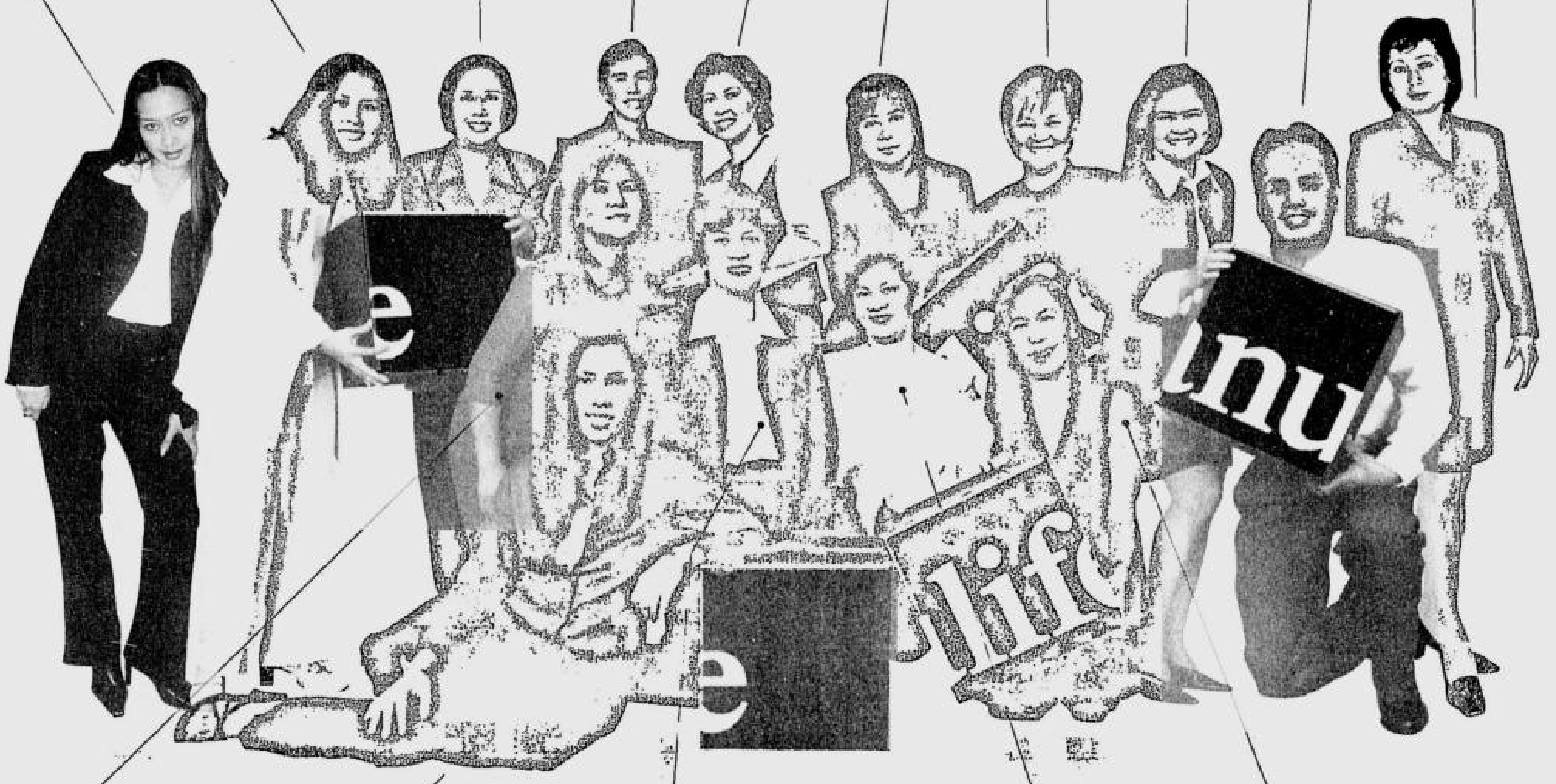
ESPERANZA CHONG
Hall of Famer
Chairman's Council
MDRT Candidate

LENELDA CHUA
Chairman's Council
MDRT Candidate

MARIE GEORGETTE CHUA
Rookie of the Year
Chairman's Council
MDRT Candidate

MIGUEL FLORES
Associate of the Year
Chairman's Council
MDRT Candidate

JOSEPHINE VILLANUEVA
Unit Manager
Agency Builder Awardee



PAMELA CINCO
Assistant Branch Manager
4 Star Master Builder

AILEEN TORRES
Chairman's Council

MA. CARMEN NICANOR
Chairman's Council

LINDA ANBOCHI
Assistant Branch Manager
Agency Builder Awardee

MA. VIRGINIA BACUYAG
Chairman's Council

President's Division

President's Council

Senior Division

WILFREDO VILLANUEVA
CELESTINO RODRIGUEZ
MARINELA BANAL
ANTONIO GUTIERREZ, JR.
JOVIMI PICCIO
ARLENE JIMENEZ
ARIEL TIROL
CONCHITA LEONARDO
ADRIANO PEREZ
DINNA AMPON
EUGENIA GONZALEZ
ALEXANDER SARMIENTO
MAUREEN SO
LINDA LEE-BUENAFE
JUANITA LIM
ALDELTRUDE SAPIN
JOSE ZOSIMO DE JESUS
TERESITA DELOS SANTOS
EMILIANO ECHEVARRIA
ALEXANDER CONCEPCION
ROSANNA BAMBA
BUENA GALLEGOS
LOLITA NAVAL
OLIVER GESMUNDO, JR.

Prep Club

MARIETTA RAMIREZ
ANGELICA GORNEZ
PATRICIA CORAZON SANCHEZ
JASON ARIZALA
REYNALDO CANOLO
CRISANTA MARTINEZ
BERNADETTE YAP
NELIA PEREZ
MA. ELENA AVENDAÑO
JULITA CABULAY
JEAN TAN
HELEN MATA
MA. LOURDES JOPSON
MA. VICTORIA VILLAMOR
HELEN BAUTISTA
MARIA THERESE GAJETE

Qualifying Level

MARY ANN LAICO
ETHELDREDA COLANDOG
MA. JOSEFINA MANGAHAS
AMADA TOLEDO
GINA RESULTAN
MA. DAISY MORO
VLADIMIR CRUZ
MA. CECILIA BAUTISTA
VALODIA KHODAVERDI
FLORITA SANCHO
CLAUDIN ZIALCITA
LORNA YOUNG
CYNTHIA PINEDA
ANGELINA NGO
CECILLE ANCHETA
CARMELITA PONCE
ROGELIO ARRIOLA
MA. CAROLINA MEDALLA
Dr. ARLENE SANCHEZ
PAULINE CUALTEROS
MARGARET ONGKEKO
MA. CECILIA LARAYA
ELICITA SOLON
PERRY DEEN
ROWENA MUYOT-REGALADO
MARITES REYES
PATRIA DAPITAN-MANTARING
MA. THERESA GABRIEL
MA. CONCEPCION SAMANIEGO
MA. BARBARA EVANGELISTA
CIELITA CRUZ
CELESTINA YU
NANNETTE CASTRO
ANTOINETTE MONTOJO
VICENTE VILLARAMA
MARIBEL LAT
SHARON ANN MARCOS
DULCE DESIREE OSIA
EUGENE ARNADE
BENNY CERILO
CYNTHIA CHOSANTOS
MARISSA NICANOR
EMILIE CABUAY
MA. TERESITA CRUZ
JESSICA DOMONDON
REBECCA TETANGCO
JULIUS PINEDA
LOURDES LEANDRO
MARIETT LAARNI YABUT
JORDAN TONGSON
PAUL MACASAET
EDNA MARCIAL
BEBE ELPIDAMA
MELANIE LAGO
MA. LOURDES SAMSON
JOSE MARIANO REYES
CYNTHIA QUIMBO
ANNA MARIA MARCELO
RAFAELA AGULAY

Manulife

Manulife

Century Club Awardees

One pride. One symbol. One promise.

Team Awardees

MARISA ORENDAIN
SUB-BRANCH OF THE YEAR
SUB-BRANCH WITH THE HIGHEST GROUP NAC
BRANCH MANAGER
EMERALD EAST SUB-BRANCH

MICHAELA PAZ ZAPANTA
UNIT OF THE YEAR
UNIT WITH THE HIGHEST GROUP NAC
ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER
PHOENIX STAR UNIT

JOHN CHUA
REGION WITH THE HIGHEST GROUP NAC
CENTRAL UNIT WITH THE HIGHEST GROUP NAC
REGIONAL MANAGER
METRO SOUTH REGION
SOUTH CENTRAL UNIT

ROBERT ONG UY
CENTRAL UNIT OF THE YEAR
ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER
MANILA SOUTH CENTRAL UNIT

ENRIQUE SARTHOU
REGION OF THE YEAR
REGIONAL MANAGER
METRO EAST REGION

MARGARET ONGKEKO
BRANCH OF THE YEAR
BRANCH WITH THE HIGHEST GROUP NAC
BRANCH MANAGER
PHOENIX SOUTH BRANCH

RENATO A. VERGEL DE DIOS
PRESIDENT and CEO

MESSAGE

As a truly close-knit family, Manulife undertook and overcame the challenges of 2002. Without including the agency force we assumed by acquisition, we attained our goal of growing the agency force to 1,000 life agents by the end of 2002. Furthermore, the integration of the CMG sales force places us on schedule to attain Manulife's objective of becoming a significant player in every territory where we operate.

The combined agency strength allows Manulife to cover more ground within the country and brings us closer to our vision of accessing a much broader cross section of the Philippine market - pushing deeper into the provincial areas.

The years ahead offer much excitement and with increasing size and agency reach come greater opportunities. I am confident that we will surpass these oncoming challenges and will come out an even bigger and stronger Manulife. Along with our Pension & Education colleagues, Manulife will prove the timeless truth that "a cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

As I congratulate all our agency awardees, allow me to formally welcome the new members of the family. Let us all look forward to a more productive year, working hand in hand, under one company, one pride, all out to fulfill one promise.

Legionnaires

ARLENE JIMENEZ
DINNA AMPON
EUGENIA GONZALEZ
JOVIMI PICCIO
MA. CARMEN NICANOR
MA. VIRGINIA BACUYAG
ROSANNA BAMBA
MEI NAR CHOI
PATRICIA CORAZON SANCHEZ
LEONICIA SAGCAL
MARITES REYES

Fifty Plus

BETTY ALEJANDRO
CATHERINE YU
ELICITA SOLON
JOSE CABRERA
JUANITA LIM
EMILIANO ECHEVARRIA
FLORIAN TRAVERS
PAULINE CUALTEROS
EUGENE ARNADE
AILEEN TORRES
MA. THERESA GABRIEL
REYNALDO CANOLO
MA. VICTORIA VILLAMOR
TERESITA DELOS SANTOS
GINA RESULTAN
JULITA CABULAY
JOSE ZOSIMO DE JESUS
OLIVER GESMUNDO, JR.
EDNA MARCIAL
CARMELITA PONCE
CONCHITA LEONARDO
MA. CECILIA BAUTISTA
NANNETTE CASTRO

LENELDA CHUA
CLAUDIN ZIALCITA
ANGELICA GORNEZ
EUGENIO GARCIA
BEBE ELPIDAMA
ROGELIO ARRIOLA
ETHELDREDA COLANDOG
NATHANIEL DE ASIS
ROWENA MUYOT-REGALADO
MARIETTA RAMIREZ
ERLINDA BUENAFE
CIELITA CRUZ
ARISTOTLE SALVADOR
BUENA GALLEGOS
ANTOINETTE MONTOJO
ALEXANDER CONCEPCION
HELEN MATA

Discover the power of one for yourself.
Manulife offers you the chance to become part of this winning team. For inquiries on how to become part of Manulife's dedicated team of professionals, call 817-29-76 loc. 220/240, look for Arlyn Fausto, Mondays thru Fridays, 8am to 5pm.

One family.
One winning team.
Our Manulife family.

A new lifestyle at the heart of EDSA G.A. TOWER

A JOINT PROJECT:

Pag-IBIG

GLOBE ASIATIQUE
REALTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION

MESSAGES

I SEND my warmest greetings and congratulations to the Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on the launching of the G.A. Tower, the first high-rise condominium catering to the middle class.

The inauguration of this new residential tower attests to our continuing efforts to develop as an industrializing economy. As we move ahead in uniting and developing our country, there is also a pressing need to speed up the implementation of our housing program so that the remaining months of the administration can truly be fruitful.

The government with all its efforts can only do so much. Much of the work will still be borne by those who care enough to initiate projects that will have a dramatic impact on the lives of our fellowmen and women. Thus, it is heartening to note that your company remains an active contributor to our vision to attain a stronger Republic.

Again, my congratulations to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation and the Pag-IBIG Fund, its partner in this housing venture. May you continue to exemplify the commitment and dedication to serve the Filipino people.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

CONGRATULATIONS to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp. on the launching of the G.A. Tower, another testament of your commitment and zeal in supporting the government's program to provide decent and affordable housing to the Filipinos.

The G.A. Tower is a constant reminder of the remarkable results the government and the private sector work hand and hand in fulfilling a common vision. This structure is more than just bricks and steel, but more so an epitome of the Filipinos' ultimate dream and the synergy of the private and public sectors propelling a collective vision to becoming a reality.

As we come to embrace the [illegible] of globalization, let us take the hurdles and challenges that come our way as opportunities to rise above our limitations to become instruments of positive change in our society.

Again, my warmest congratulations to the men and women of Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp.

Mabuhay po kayo!

[illegible]

SEN. FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN
Chairman, Senate Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Resettlement

GREETINGS to Globe Asiatique Realty Development Corp. on the opening of its G.A. Tower Marketing Office and Showroom and launching of the soon-to-rise G.A. Tower along Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

It would be impossible to talk about this housing venture without mentioning its prime location — right at the heart of one of the busiest residential and commercial cities in Metro Manila. But I believe that the most important feature of Globe Asiatique's G.A. Tower is the affordability for middle-income earners. Thus, bringing condominium living within reach of the ordinary Filipino employee. Globe Asiatique, along with its partner, the Pag-IBIG Fund, has just set a trend in housing provision. They have given the word commitment another meaning by going the extra mile in assuring that its target market shall get the best of the bargain.

Congratulations to Globe Asiatique!

REP. PROSPERO A. NOGRALES
Chairman
House Committee on Housing & Urban Development

I WOULD like to congratulate Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings and Development Corp. on the formal opening of its Marketing Office and Showroom for G.A. Tower, an event which I consider to be significant in our quest to provide Filipino families with decent housing within their means.

Globe Asiatique is making a big contribution to our housing agenda with the construction of G.A. Tower, the first high-rise residential project of its kind to be undertaken with the government through Pag-IBIG Fund. By providing an ideal housing option for middle-income families, G.A. Tower represents an important step in addressing the housing problem especially within the highly urbanized center of Metro Manila.

I would like to commend Globe Asiatique for having the foresight and the pioneering spirit to initiate this project. Again, congratulations on this important achievement and I wish you all the best.

SECRETARY MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman
HUDCC

MY warmest greetings to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings and Development Corp. on the inauguration of its pioneering venture—G.A. Tower Condominium.

We in the government shelter sector, and particularly in Pag-IBIG Fund, appreciate the initiative taken by our partners in the private sector in helping alleviate homelessness in this country. With the development of G.A. Tower, Globe Asiatique distinguishes [illegible] as one truly emphatic with the needs [illegible] Filipino.

[illegible] place the greatest emphasis on quality [illegible] our people as primary considerations in [illegible] housing projects.

Congratulations and more power!

[illegible] ROMERO FEDERICO S. QUIMBO
President and CEO, HDMF

GLOBE Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp. is honored to be the partner of the Pag-IBIG Fund in this milestone project, which [illegible] will reap gratifying results among the middle [illegible] who comprise the bulk of the Fund's membership. G.A. Tower, when completed, [illegible] in residential development [illegible].

Because we [illegible] acknowledge the need for government and the private sector to join hands in addressing the country's housing problem, we have made it our company's [illegible] our efforts in projects that would benefit the most [illegible] Tower, for all its upscale design and prime location, would [illegible] Asiatique's testimony on affordability with quality.

We [illegible] committed to our mission. And with agencies like HUDCC and Pag-IBIG Fund to support us, we know that our efforts will continue to grow, multiply and intensify.

DELFIN S. LEE
President, Globe Asiatique
Realty Holdings Corp.

Condo units for middle-income workers

HOW many times in this lifetime can a middle-income employee get a chance to own a condominium unit? And at the heart of Metro Manila at that? Hardly, you say?

Not anymore.

Pag-IBIG Fund partnered with Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp. to realize a once impossible dream: a condominium specially designed for middle-income families. Strategically located at the heart of Edsa, GA Tower is the first high-rise condominium project of Pag-IBIG Fund under its MRB (medium-rise building) program.

Housing czar Secretary Mike Defensor once posed the idea of building a condominium to real estate developers; Globe Asiatique president Delfin S. Lee shares the same vision. Instead of an MRB, the two came up with a 30-storey, 600-unit high-rise condominium.

Financing scheme

What distinguishes GA Tower from the others are its hassle free financing scheme and its affordability. A 38-square meter unit costs around P1.5-P2 million only, and can be yours with no down payment. The 20 percent equity can be paid in full or in 36 months with no interest while the building is under construction. The remaining 80 percent is a guaranteed loan with Pag-IBIG payable over 20 years, which the buyer will start paying only after the completed unit is turned over to the buyer. All buyers are pre-qualified and pre-approved by Globe Asiatique.

There are two important requirements to avail yourself of this: you have to be a Pag-IBIG member and you must attend a 10-minute loan counseling. Non-Pag-IBIG members can easily become one by paying in full the 24 monthly contribution required by Pag-IBIG to qualify for a housing loan.

Units at GA Tower are smaller than the normal ones in upscale condominiums. "But the concept is to make it affordable," said Lee.

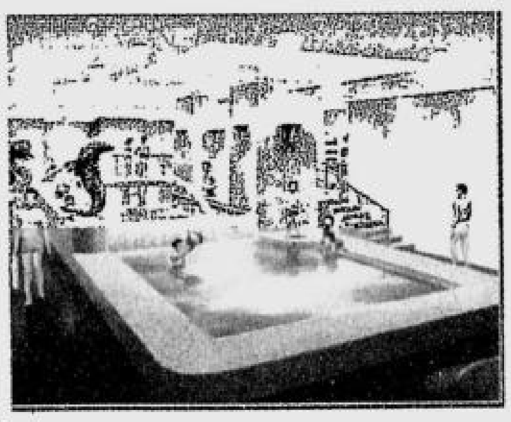
Worries about the monthly amortization were foreseen by Pag-IBIG and GA. After paying the 20 percent equity, the monthly amortization to Pag-IBIG for a 1.5 M unit would cost something like P15,000 a month all inclusive. "If the resident can't afford it, he or she has an option to rent out the two bedrooms," said Lee. With its location along Edsa, boarders won't be hard to find.

"The mere fact that the loan will be done through Pag-IBIG, certifies that the title is clean," Lee explains. The title is mortgaged with Pag-IBIG and only after they have inspected the units and verified all the necessary documents will Pag-IBIG release the fund.

Amenities

Affordability without compromising quality. Potential residents need not worry about additional costs before moving in. Lee assures that the units will be ready for occupancy in 36 months or less with no renovation needed. Every unit has 2-storeys, 2-3 bedrooms (one located downstairs) with their own bathrooms.

On the second floor, you will find the indoor swimming pool, gym, spa, clubhouse, plus a rare treat of fine dining at the rooftop. Who would have thought "ordinary" employees can have all these exciting amenities?



At a height of 165 meters, GA Tower will "tower" above the other buildings in Edsa. With the height comes the view: the higher you go, the more you'll get a better view of the metropolis.

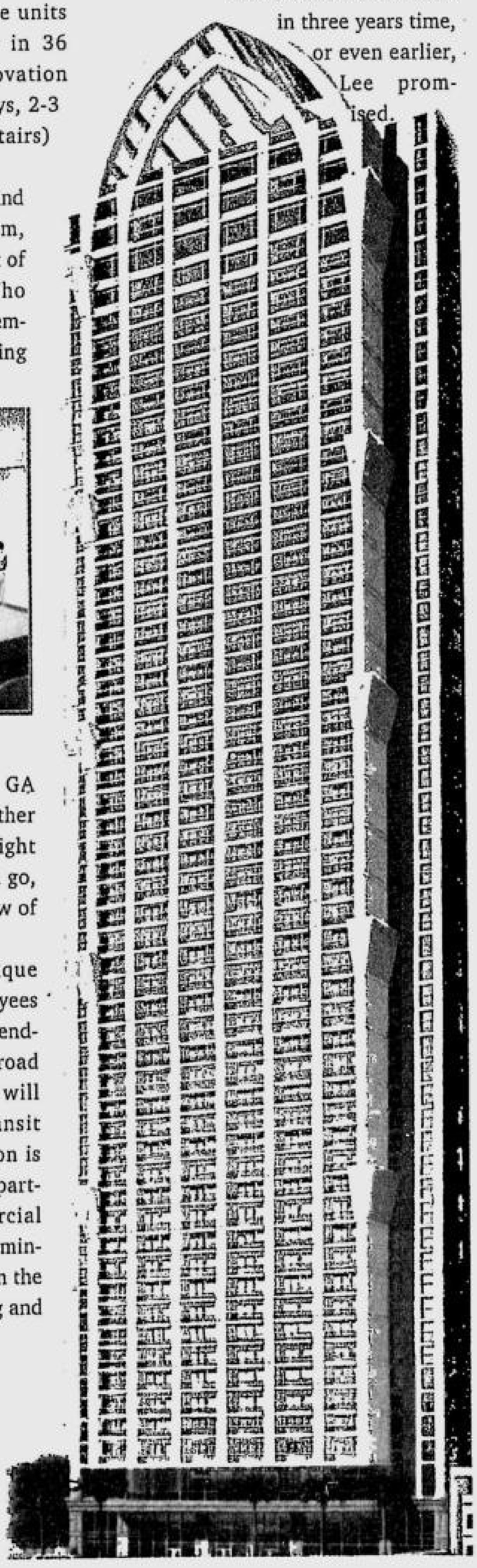
Pag-IBIG and Globe Asiatique want the life of ordinary employees easier and simple. Instead of spending two to three hours on the road to and from work, GA Tower will cut a large chunk of that transit time. MRT Boni Avenue station is just a few feet away, while department stores and commercial establishments are a few more minutes ride away. GA Tower lies in the middle of Makati, Mandaluyong and Pasig.

Globe Asiatique is formally opening today the GA Tower Marketing office and showroom along Edsa, beside Bonifacio Motors in Mandaluyong City.

Delfin S. Lee, President Globe Asiatique

Lee advises middle-income employees that, "Now is the best time to buy a property."

Expect to see the rise of Metro Manila's first high rise condominium for middle income families in three years time, or even earlier, Lee promised.



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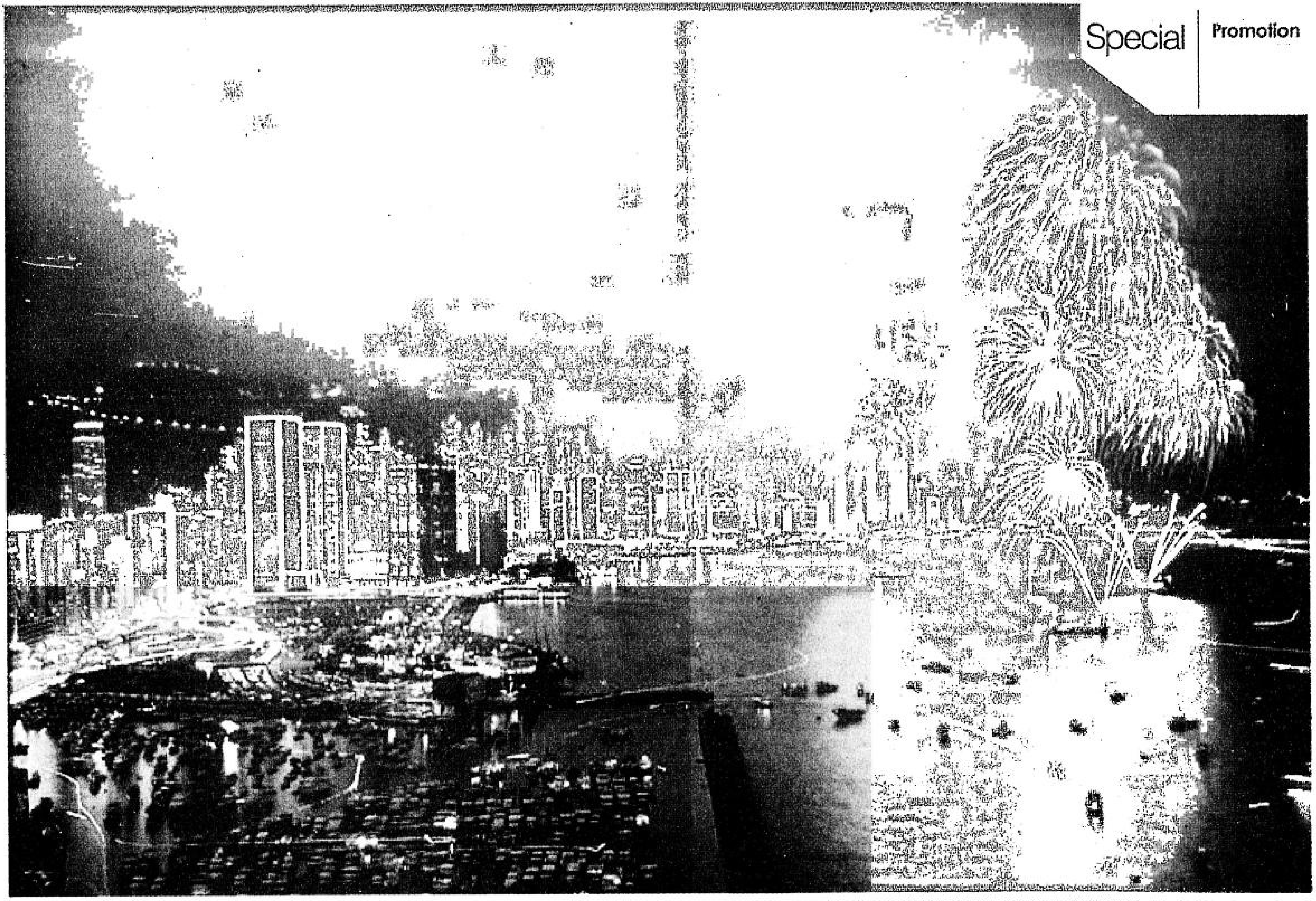

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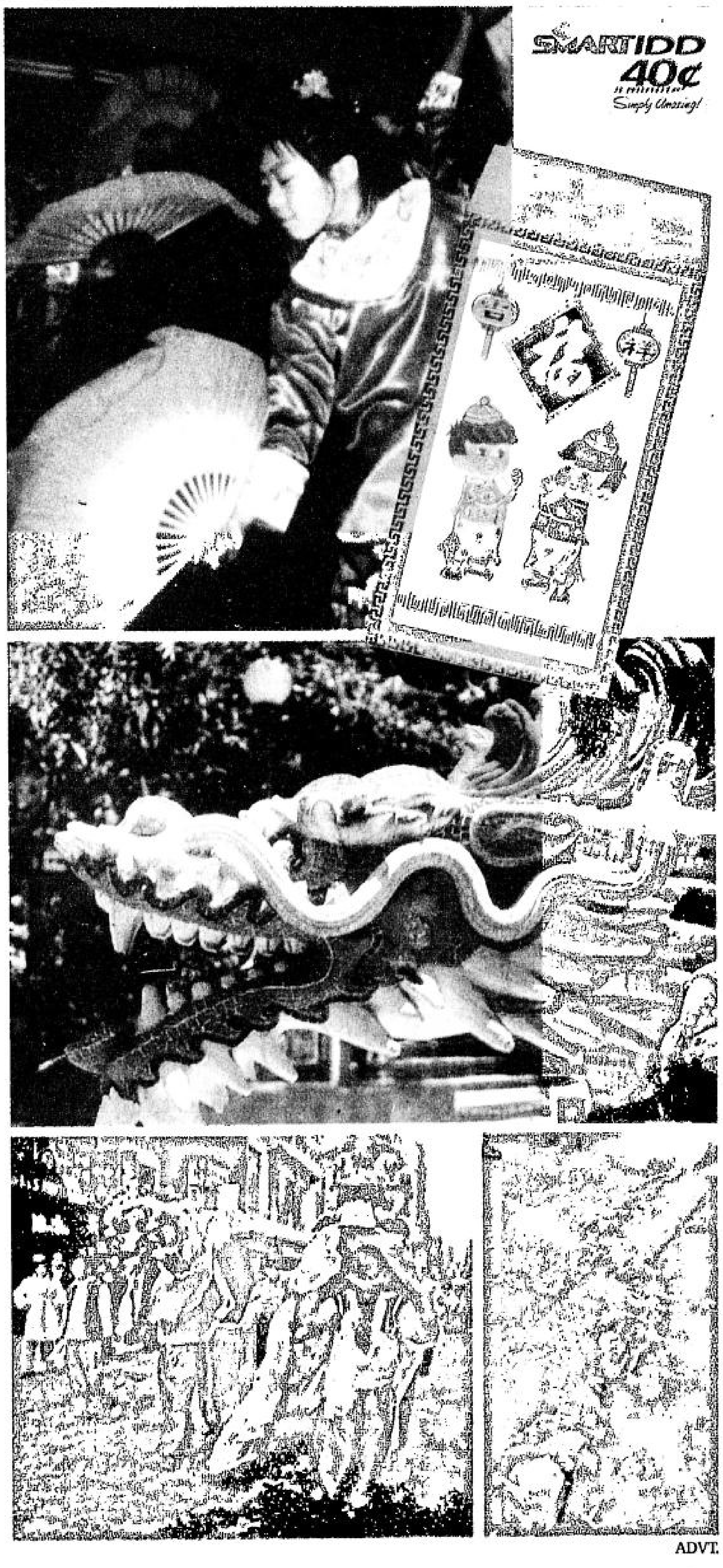

"Chinese Diaspora had existed for many centuries and spread far and wide. Early mistreatments had caused many descendents to feel confused, indifferent, or ambivalent towards their heritage. With modern communication technology, this is the right time to bring us together and to promote the sense of kinship."

-The China Foundation and HuayiNet

Over hundreds of years, the number of overseas Chinese has grown legion fold all over the world. Even as they assimilate into local cultures and populations they still carry with them a common heritage such as the basic traits of strong self-reliance and Confucian values of thrift, discipline, industriousness, family cohesion, and reverence for education. These are the hallmark characteristics of the Chinese all over the world making them local economic powerhouses as well as global players in finance, manufacturing and technological innovation.

The Chinese mainland, home to 1.2 billion, has been the historic springing point for millions more making their homes elsewhere. These are the Overseas Chinese, which on top of the Taiwanese population of 21 million, number around 30 to 40 million spread through 136 countries. Each wave of the Chinese diaspora was marked by cultural upheaval, from the Opium Wars to the Communist Revolution. Still, the intrinsic close Chinese family ties remain. Many families on the mainland know of their 2nd to 4th generations who live overseas, mainly in South East Asia and North America.

In the age of modern communications, these family ties have the best chance of being rekindled and once more, nurtured. SMART IDD at 40c a Minute to over 150 destinations is the only sure and reliable link to keep these deep Chinese values of community and family intact. Forty cents comes to be a pittance compared to the priceless opportunity to strengthen contacts or more importantly, explore new ones.

As a matter of fact, it seems the diaspora is headed for a return wave. That is, millions of Overseas Chinese are looking earnestly back to the mainland for investment and business opportunities as well as exploring family trees. As the Chinese economy opens up with new reforms, a new market is being created on all business fronts and with unprecedented scale. SMART IDD can instantly connect you to the mainland action from practically anywhere in the Philippines thanks to the crystal clarity of the nation's widest and strongest network with the largest number of cellsites at more than 2,800. This muscular network ensures that you can make that important overseas call anytime you're on the go-- truly mobile convenience.

SMART IDD gives you instant access to your loved ones abroad. Even through time and space, SMART can keep the Chinese family together. In the Philippines, SMART IDD supports the growth and nourishment of long distance relationships among more Filipino-Chinese families worldwide.

If we go by the Chinese calendar, we are now in the year 4700, The Year of the Goat. According to Allen Tsai famous geomancer, 2003 (or 4700) will be "more peaceful" than last year 2002, the Year of the Horse. "There will be conflicts, but these will be largely mediated;" he says and overall, "everybody will have at least 2 months of good luck." However auspicious this Year of the Goat is for you, make the most of the good Joss that you receive. And capitalize on your contacts by sending a loud and clear Kung Hei Fat Choy all over the world.

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"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

Psalm 21:15

In Loving Memory
On the 18th Death Anniversary of

HONORIO POBLADOR, JR.

February 1, 2003

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory on February 1, 2003 at the following churches:

SACRED HEART PARISH Welfareville, City of Mandaluyong	6:00 a.m.
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH Little Baguio, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	7:15 a.m.
SAN MIGUEL PRO-CATHEDRAL Gen. Solano, San Miguel, Manila	7:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH F.B. Harrison Street, Pasay City	7:00 a.m.
SAN FELIPE NERI PARISH City of Mandaluyong	6:00 a.m.
DON BOSCO MAKATI Pasay Road, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
SAINT ANDREW PARISH Bel-Air, City of Makati	6:30 p.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO Forbes Park, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI CHURCH Magallanes Village, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
ST. SEBASTIAN CATHEDRAL Bacolod City	7:00 a.m.
SACRED HEART SHRINE Bacolod City	6:00 a.m.
SAN ANTONIO PARISH Bacolod City	7:00 a.m.

His family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

MESSAGE OF THANKS
We, the family of the late

TEODORA C. LEYCO

(Ate Doris)

Wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you, our friends near and far, who sent flowers, Mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us and exprerssed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of sorrow.

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ERNESTO B. MICHAEL

Peacefully went home to our Lord & Mama Mary on January 29, 2003 at the age of 68.

His wife **Perla**; and children **George & Jenifer, Alberto & Celeste, Raymond, Gregory, Christy Sandy**; and grandchildren kindly request relative & friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remain lies in state at Rolling Hills.

Funeral Mass will be at Peace Adoration Chapel, Fortuna St., Banilad, Cebu City at 9:00 a.m., February 02, 2003. Interment will follow right after the Mass at Cebu Memorial Park.

Our Dearly Beloved

Zenaida Soriano Rivero

(October 1, 1930 – January 29, 2003)

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 29, 2003 at the age of 72.

His loving parents **BUENAVENTURA** and **AGRIPINA** (†), sisters **ROSARIO**, **CONCHITA** (†), **CORAZON** (†), **MILAGROS**; brother **MANUEL**; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their home at Mac Arthur Highway, Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan (in front of Meycauayan College).

Interment will be on Sunday, February 2 at Meycauayan Memorial Park, Zamora (behind St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church) after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

SIDNEY COLLADO PASCUA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 29, 2003

His loving parents **Arthur** and **Ester**; brother **Arthur II**; sisters **Marjorie** and **Krishka**, and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 2, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"From darkness let the light shine!" Genesis 1:3

So lovingly remembered on the Sixteenth (16th) Death Anniversary of

RUFINO R. SANTOS, JR.

Who passed away on January 31, 1987
Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia, Bel-Air, Makati City*	6:30 a.m. 12:15 nn 6:30 p.m.
The National Shrine of Sacred Heart *Dao St., Makati City*	6:00 a.m. 6:30 a.m. 7:00 a.m., 12:15 nn, 6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	7:30 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati City*	12:15 nn
St. Roque Parish Church *Pateros, Metro Manila*	6:00 a.m.
Parokya ng Sto. Sepulcro *Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna*	9:00 a.m.
San Pedro Parish Church *San Pedro, Laguna*	6:00 a.m.
St. Paul Parish Church *Richmond, British Columbia, Canada*	8:00 a.m.
Holy Rosary Cathedral *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*	12:10 nn

His wife **Aurora**; children **Ronald & Cherry**, **Roy** (†), **Rico & Jenny** and grandson **Rufino Vincent** request relatives and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **Records Management System** for the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **27 January 2003** to be submitted not later than **25 February 2003, 5:00 p.m.** through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **March 7 to 8, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) through the BAC Secretariat.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **March 12, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **March 17, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** and **17 March 2003 at 2:15 p.m.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit bids in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes; the first envelope containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

EDGARDO V. CABARIOS
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Jan. 24 & 31, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the suppy of **Utility Vehicles** for the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **27 January 2003** to be submitted not later than **18 February 2003**, 5:00 P.M. through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **February 24 to 25, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) through the BAC Secretariat.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **March 3, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **March 14, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. and 14 March 2003 at 2:15 P.M.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit bids in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes; the first envelope containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40."**

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Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Jan. 24 & 31, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **Radio Monitoring Test Equipment for National Capital Region (NCR) and Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR)** of the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **27 January 2003** to be submitted not later than **12 February 2003**, 5:00 P.M. through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **February 17 to 18, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) through the BAC Secretariat.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **February 21, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **March 4, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. and 4 March 2003 at 2:15 P.M.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit bids in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes; the first envelope containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40."**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

EDGARDO V. CABARIOS
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Jan. 24 & 31, 2003)

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BUSINESS

CANNED TUNA EXPORTS

RP sees higher quota from EU

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE EUROPEAN Union is set to decide on a proposal by its mediators to settle a long-running trade dispute with the Philippines and Thailand by granting additional quota allocations to increase the Asean producers' exports of canned tuna to Europe.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the mediators have proposed to provide a minimum access volume (MAV) for Philippine and Thailand canned tuna exports wherein a specific amount of shipments (based on a percentage of total consumption in Europe) would get a significantly lower tariff rate than the prevailing 24 percent. Roxas said the Philippines and Thailand would get an increase in their MAV every year.

Roxas said the proposal has been endorsed by EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and EU Farm Commissioner Franz Fischler to EU members.

The mediation arose from the complaint filed by Philippines and Thailand with the World Trade Organization in protest against the EU's move to grant duty-free perks to canned tuna exports from its former colonies in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries which puts competing Asean exports at a big disadvantage.

Although it is rare for EU to reject a settlement offer drawn up by its own mediators, Roxas remained wary that Spain and Portugal—which have opposed the granting of duty-free perks to the Philippines' and Thailand's canned tuna exports—could succeed in getting other members,

RP SEES/'B9

RP-UAE air talks to resume in Feb.

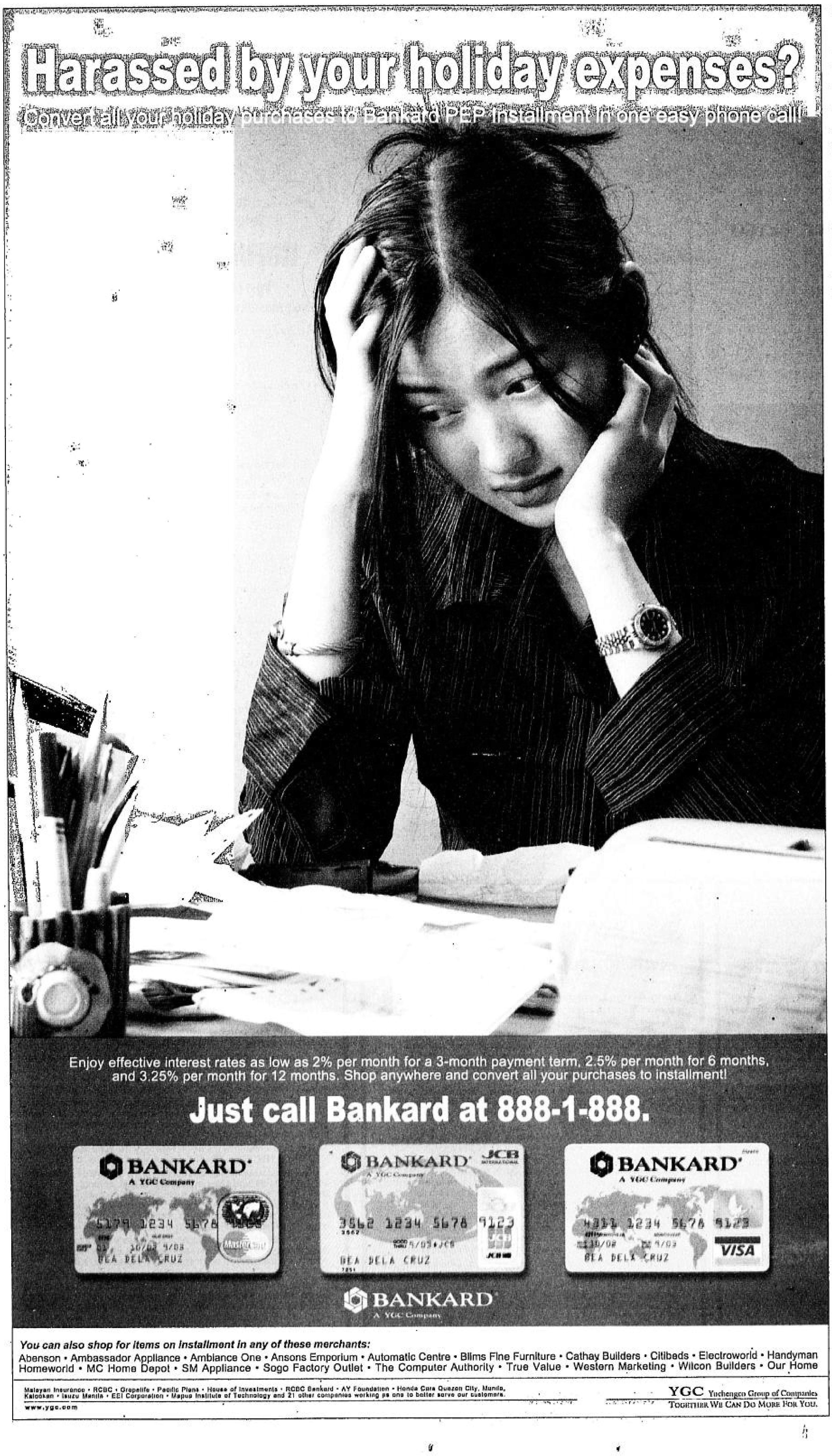
By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER almost a year of being stalled, the air talks between the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates will finally push through next month as the Philippine air panel bows to pressure from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A memorandum from Presidential Management Staff Undersecretary Ricardo Saludo to Ms Macapagal stated that the United Arab Emirates was now considered a "priority country" for air talks and that discussions should be undertaken any time soon.

The Civil Aeronautics Board earlier came out with a list of priority countries for negotiations in the first half of the year that included the United

RP-UAE/ B9



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Trade figures reliable, says Bangko Sentral

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) yesterday said Philippine exports data it received from National Statistics Office (NSO) were satisfactory and provided a reliable barometer against which to track the performance of the export industry.

In fact, it said the NSO had made improvements in the monitoring of import data since certain weaknesses were identified by the BSP in 2001.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, who was present at the hearing conducted yesterday by House oversight committee chair Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, also expressed confidence in the NSO trade figures. NSO is an agency under the National Economic and Development Authority, which Neri heads.

The BSP categorically stated that as a professional institution, it remained true to its mandate for accuracy and transparency. As such, it continues to cooperate with various institutions on possible further refinements on data monitoring. At the Inter-Agency Task Force on Import Statistics headed by the Neda, the BSP is a member along with the National Statistical Coordination Board, the Bureau of Customs and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

The BSP added that progress made in the monitoring of trade data has improved its balance-of-payments (BOP) statistics, a compilation system dependent on data sourced from several agencies and institutions. This includes the NSO for trade statistics and bank reports for export receipts. Improvements in trade data monitoring continue to be made following the liberalization of the country's foreign trade receipts and payments system in the early 1990s, it said.

Under a liberalized regime, export receipts are no longer required to be remitted to the Philippine banking system. Exporters could use their receipts to, among others, buy debt papers issued abroad.

RP's Top 2 banks posted big profits in '02

By Elena R. Torrijos

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, posted a net income of P415.67 million in the fourth quarter, bringing its total net income for 2002 up to P2.75 billion.

While the full year profit figure is 30 percent higher than the bank's 2001 net income of P2.117 billion, it was below the bank's target of P3.5 billion for the year.

Bank of the Philippine Islands, for its part, reported a net income of P1.2 billion in the last quarter of the year pushing its entire 2002 profit to P5.2 billion, roughly the same as the previous year's level.

"The fourth quarter did not come out as expected," Metrobank executive vice president Alfredo Javellana III said in an interview yesterday.

The same was true with BPI which had projected a 5 to 10-percent growth in its net profit last year.

On Metrobank's prospects for this year, Javellana said it was difficult to come out with a clear picture given the likely US attack on Iraq, the uncertainties hanging over North Korea and the possible increase in world oil prices.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday, Metrobank reported that its interest income for the fourth quarter amounted to P5.488 billion while interest expense was up to P2.394 billion.

The bank posted other income of P2.255 billion from trading and investments.

BPI, for its part, said in documents filed with the SEC that its gross interest income in the fourth quarter last year reached P4.047 billion while interest expense amounted to P1.778 billion.

This put the bank's net interest income at P2.143 billion.

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BusinessFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Big brands launch fight against fakes

DAVOS, Switzerland—Company executives recently called for the launch of a global coalition against fake products, which they estimate is hurting businesses and national taxes to the tune of $450 billion a year.

At a company level, losses ran into hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We conservatively estimate our own foregone revenues at $200 (million) to $250 million," John Pepper, executive board chairman of US consumer goods maker Procter & Gamble told Reuters at the World Economic Forum. The company had total revenues of $40.2 billion in its last fiscal full year to June 30, 2002.

P&G shampoos such as Pantene and Head & Shoulders were most often targeted by producers of fakes, Pepper said.

"They are the easiest to manufacture, they can be made with low capital investments and command high margins," he said.

He invited businesses in many different industries, including food, clothes, car parts, pharmaceuticals, software and music, to participate in the coalition.

"We hope to get a formal industry-wide coalition that can be a single body to talk to government institutions," said Stuart Eizenstat, a former senior US State Department official who will chair an anti-counterfeiting workshop here on Monday.

The industry of fakes has become huge as organized crime has discovered it as an easy and low-risk way to make money.

"Some countries don't even rate it as a crime," Eizenstat said.

Last year authorities seized one billion counterfeit cigarettes with brand names owned by British American Tobacco such as Lucky Strike, Kent, Dunhill and Pall Mall, its Chief Executive Martin Broughton told Reuters.

"In UK terms that represents 250 million pounds in revenues, 200 of which is lost state revenues (taxes)." Broughton estimates it is just the tip of an iceberg, because BAT believes counterfeits are as big as 3 percent of its sales, or 25 billion cigarettes a year.

Overcharged

The coalition will also push for a new global study, preferably by a neutral organization like the Organization for Eco-

BIG/ C2

JoHari window explains need for brand-building

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

THE MINDSET that marketing is dispensable and expensive is the biggest barrier to creating brand awareness. It is also the most certain way to kill the brand's potential success.

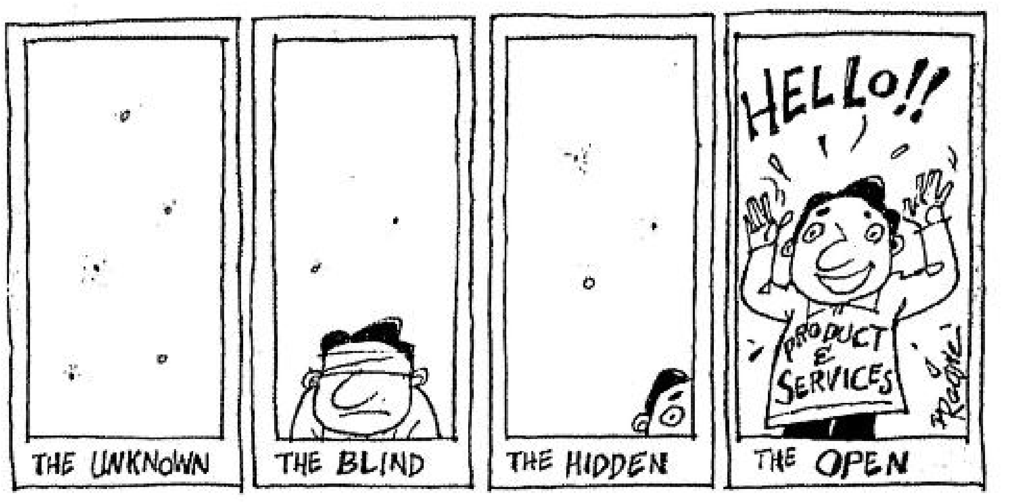
Too often, owners who may be production or technical oriented argue that having a superior product or service is sufficient to trigger market awareness of a brand. In the same way, many who are finance-oriented point out that savings from not having awareness campaigns may be put to better use by servicing debts and funding salaries of seasoned personnel to include sales people and collection agents.

Unfortunately, with competition and brand proliferation, this may not be entirely true. The same seasoned sales people continue to ask for marketing awareness campaigns to help clinch a sale. Often, the absence of marketing efforts becomes a convenient excuse for not bringing home a sale.

In the same manner, one may have the best production facilities and equipment but with little market presence and identity, the company cannot expect much product or service demand.

A firm may have the best finance people and collection agents but without adequate sales derived from awareness programs, there may not be enough funds to manage or payables to be collected.

The importance of establishing brand awareness specially if one is seriously committed to sustaining a product or service life, is underscored by the popular JoHari window, a theoretical model of interpersonal communication and human interaction.



Two psychologists Joseph Luft and Harry Ingham developed the JoHari window, widely represented as a four-pane window. It is a popular mental model describing the different styles of interpersonal communication and human interaction.

The same principles that gave birth to JoHari window may be cited as the very reasons why marketing and brand awareness is necessary to the success of any product or service.

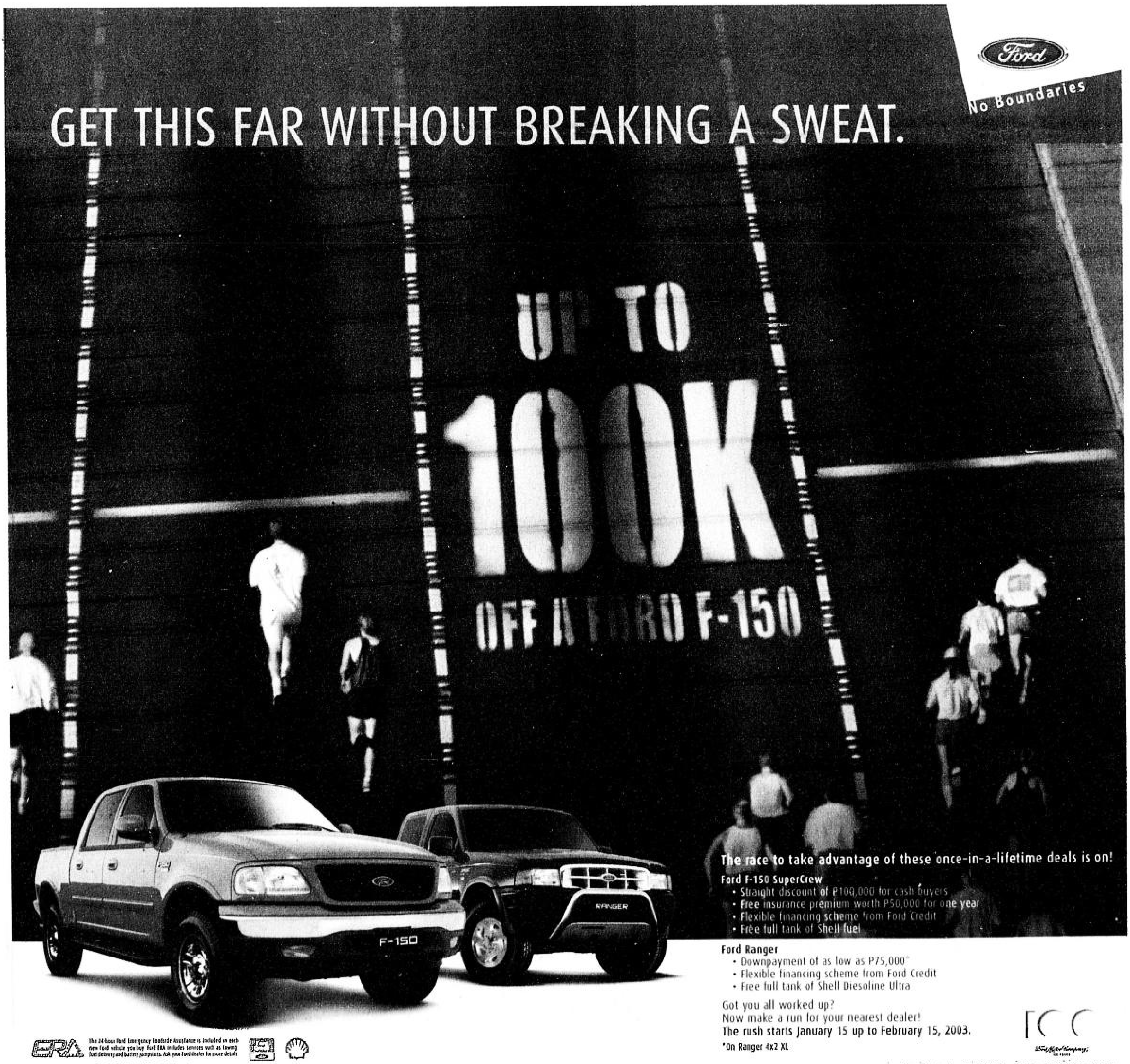
In its original form, the four-quadrant JoHari window represents the person's entire self and his level of personal awareness. Each quadrant symbolizes a different type of awareness level known as open, hidden, blind and unknown.

Quadrant one or the open quadrant represents what a person knows about himself and what the public knows about the person. Quadrant two or the blind quadrant refers to what the public may know about the person but which the person is unaware of.

Quadrant three or the hidden quadrant covers all the information known to the person but which the public is unaware of. While quadrant four or the unknown quadrant sums up all the things, which the person does not know about himself nor is the public aware of.

The JoHari window's challenge is to increase the domain covered by quadrant one or the

JOHARI/ C2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VAT on professionals

TAX-FILES

By Mary Ann C. Capuchino
SGV & Co.

(First of a series)

BIG names in the entertainment industry recently played the role of real-life protesters when they marched in the streets to question the imposition of the Value Added Tax (VAT).

After seven years of deferment, professionals, including entertainers, will now be subject to VAT beginning Jan. 1, 2003.

With the BIR's thrust to actively disseminate VAT information to the affected professionals, it may only be a matter of time before professionals clearly understand the VAT and appreciate its ability to strengthen the tax system and the economy.

Professionals can then do their share in nation building by paying VAT on their sale of professional services.

Regulations

Last Jan. 2, the finance department promulgated Revenue Regulations Regulations No.1-2003, which provided the basis for imposing the VAT on professionals.

Professionals include actors, actresses, talents, singers and emcees, radio and television broadcasters and choreographers, musical, radio, movie, television and stage directors and professional athletes, as well as real estate, stock immigration and commercial brokers.

While the VAT on professionals has been provided for under the Expanded VAT Law of 1996, its implementation was deferred until Dec. 31, 2002.

It would take an act of Congress for the deferment to be extended or to totally exempt these professionals from paying VAT.

Nature of VAT

VAT was introduced in the Philippines in 1988 and is generally imposed on the sale, barter or exchange of goods, properties and services in the Philippines.

VAT is a business tax. This means that it is a tax imposed on a commercial activity or business. A "business" is defined as a trade or commercial activity regularly engaged in as means of livelihood or profit.

In the case of professionals, they are considered as engaged in business, being sellers of services, through the exercise of their profession in the Philippines. Thus, they are subject to VAT.

Professionals are now no different from other contractors/providers of services in the Philippines, which have been subject to VAT since it was introduced in 1988.

Some professionals protest the VAT imposition because they believe that they are not engaged in business for profit's sake, but merely practicing their craft or profession.

Under the regulations, however, the sale of professional services is covered by VAT because professionals provide services to their clients for a fee.

If the professional services are rendered for free like in the case of free medical services provided by doctors during their medical missions, pro bono legal services provided by lawyers, or free performances by singers in a fund raising concert, then it can be argued that these are not subject to VAT.

Indirect tax

VAT is also considered an indirect tax since the seller of the service can pass the tax on to the buyer of the service, e.g. producers in the case of actors and actresses, patients in the case of doctors, etc.).

However, while the VAT can be passed on to buyer of the service, the VAT is still technically the tax liability of the seller of services (e.g. actors and actresses, doctors).

In concept, VAT is limited to the value added to the services that the seller is allowed to claim input credits for VAT paid on the inputs they purchased.

For example, if a VAT-registered artist received a talent fee of P500,000 for the month (with corresponding amount of output tax based on gross receipts, net of VAT, of P50,000) and purchased P400,000 worth of costumes, makeup, derma services, gym and spa services, among others, from VAT registered suppliers for the same month, his VAT liability for the month will only be P10,000 (P50,000 output tax less P40,000 input tax).

Excise tax

VAT is also considered an excise tax since it only applies to transactions within the Philippines. Thus, a professional entertainer doing shows/concerts abroad and getting paid for it will not be subject to VAT in the Philippines.

Professionals defined

For VAT purposes, a "professional " is defined as one who derives income from the practice of profession.

This includes lawyers and other persons who are registered with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) such as doctors, dentists, accountants and engineers.

The term "professional " also refers to one who pursues an art and makes his living from it.

Thus, it may be the reason why actors, actresses, talents, singers and emcees, radio and television broadcasters and the like are considered as professionals under the VAT regulations since they are effectively engaged in the sale of their "artistic" services (e.g. acting, singing) or talent to their clients/producers.

General professional partnerships (GPPs) are also subject to VAT on the sale of professional services in the Philippines. Thus, law firms, accounting firms, engineering consultancy firms, among others, are now subject to VAT.

However, the regulations provide that GPPs shall be treated as a separate and distinct taxable person from the individual partners composing the partnership and that all gross receipts from sales of services rendered by the partners for and in the name of the partnership shall be taxable against the partnership.

Sales of services made by any of the partners in his personal and individual capacity, on the other hand, would be taxed accordingly.

Liable professionals

Only professionals with aggregate gross receipts of at least P550,000 a year are subject to VAT. They are required to register with the BIR as a VAT taxpayer.

Professionals with aggregate gross receipts below P550,000 are not liable for VAT but they are liable instead to the 3- percent percentage tax. These professionals, however, have the option to be covered by VAT.

Meanwhile, professionals with aggregate gross receipts of not more than P100,000 are both exempt from VAT and the 3-percent percentage tax. These professionals are, however, still required to register with the BIR as a non-VAT taxpayer.

Rate of VAT

Generally, the local sale of services by a VAT-registered taxpayer, including those rendered by professionals, are subject to the 10-percent VAT.

Certain services may be exempt from VAT or subject to zero-rated VAT.

These include the services rendered by professionals outside the Philippines and those services rendered by professionals under an employee-employer relationship are examples of sale of services exempt from VAT.

Professional services that may qualify for 0 percent VAT rate are those considered automatically zero-rated sales and effectively zero rated sales.

Automatically zero-rated sale of services include services rendered to a non-resident foreign client, where the fees are paid for in acceptable foreign currency (RMC No. 17-96), and services rendered to a Peza-registered client (RMC No. 74-99).

On the other hand, a transaction is effectively zero-rated if the service is rendered to a person or entity whose exemption under special laws or international agreements to which the Philippines is a signatory.

Examples are services rendered by professionals to the Asian Development Bank and International Rice Research Institute.

In the case of sale of services by professionals which are considered subject to 10 percent or 0 percent VAT, the input tax passed-on by their VAT-registered suppliers may be claimed as input tax credits against their output tax, if any.

However, in the case of sale of services by professionals, which are considered exempt from VAT, input tax passed-on by their VAT-registered suppliers cannot be claimed as input tax credits.

Professionals who are engaged in both VAT taxable and exempt sale of service are required to allocate the amount of input tax that can be claimed as input tax credits during the period based on their gross receipts.

Input tax cannot be claimed as tax credits against output tax on sale of professional services, which are considered exempt from VAT.

JoHari window . . .

From page C1

open quadrant. This can happen only with greater transparency from an individual, as it is widely believed that a person's openness or self-disclosure often generates feedback about oneself from others.

This feedback from others increases the person's knowledge about himself thus, reducing the blind or unknown area. If this is achieved, the blind or unknown area is reduced.

The principles espoused by the JoHari window matches much of marketing's brand building tenets. It strongly substantiates the proposition that brand awareness is integral to any brand's success. Here are some ways by which the JoHari window principle can be applied to marketing:

Widen open quadrant

Brand awareness is vitally important to building a brand. But efforts at brand building become more successful if there is a significant and meaningful disclosure of what your brand can do, how important and relevant are its benefits to the target market as much as how distinct and unique is it compared to all other available competitor brands.

In the early '90s, the brand Lucky Me was a new entrant in the instant noodle market. It was up against formidable brands like Maggi and Payless. While other brands had the head start, Lucky Me had the more meaningful product story that made it easy for its target market to recall the brand.

Lucky Me's soupy noodle variant made its way to the heart of Filipino families with the timely endorsement of celebrity couple Lani and Bong Revilla with kids. While the dry noodle variant Lucky Me Pancit Canton hinged on a unique Filipino slice of life situation through the use of a street toughie character whose heart melts at the sight of a bowl of Lucky Me Pancit Canton.

Both variants talked about the delicious taste of instant Lucky Me. With sustained marketing communication efforts and the introduction of new variants over time which included batchoy, the brand Lucky Me has become today's undisputed market leader in the instant noodle category.

Reduce hidden quadrant

A company may have a good product or service but sees little value in letting the public and target market know about the brand's existence much more patiently sustain efforts to communicate a meaningfully unique consumer benefit.

Ironically, many of the country's local brands among them San Miguel Pale Pilsen, Goldilocks, Bench, Jollibee, Max Fried Chicken, etc. started small but have become successful because of wise and sustained investments in brand awareness.

Get rid of blind quadrant

Marketing, among the various business disciplines, enjoys the privilege of having marketing research tools that helps the owner of the brand keep track of consumers' attitudes, feelings, knowledge and usage of the brand. Much of the brand's blind quadrant can be minimized, if not totally eradicated by the learning and insights derived from widely used consumer research tools like focus group discussions and usage, attitude and image surveys. Your brand's loyal users may have found more relevant ways of using your product or service.

Arm & Hammer, a 125-year-old baking soda brand made by Church and Dwight reversed its moribund fate with the discovery that many of its present users were using the brand as a refrigerator deodorant. An awareness campaign on this single use and benefit was launched with tremendous success.

Much of its target market was encouraged to place an open box of baking soda in their refrigerator. Arm & Hammer's case reveals how awareness and usage of a brand can help uncover more insights about the brand based on the target market's experience and how this derived learning can be used to strengthen and prolong a brand's life.

Discover the unknown

Marketing is the discovery of an inherent, latent physiological need that is not yet apparent to its potential user. Nonetheless, a marketer's sensitivity to customer needs and wants, keen foresight and assessment of trends in the environment plus knowledge of market research tools can help discover this latent need.

This was how bottled water has emerged to be one of man's necessities today, a product borne out of a polluted environment, a market's increasing emphasis on health and sanitation and strong need for a clean drink.

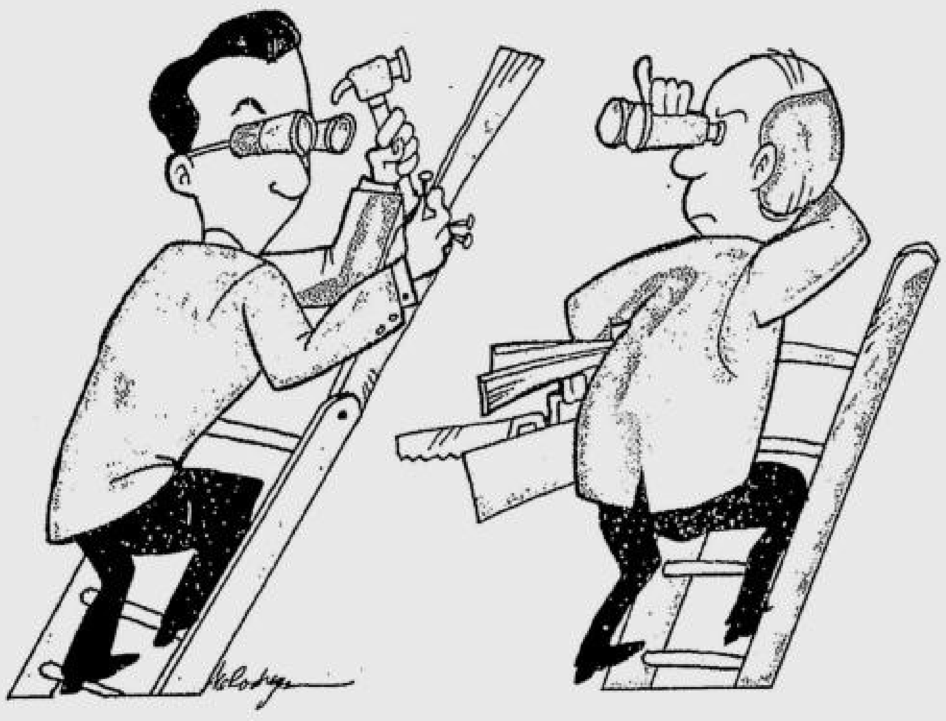
The need to create awareness is pivotal to a brand's success. It is as essential as the company's acquisition of new plant facilities or equipment. It is equally important as managing people and funds. It needs the same commitment as when one makes an investment in capital equipment, new product, service or software technology and people.

(The writer is a professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net)

STRATEGIC PLANS

Continue improving, SMEs urged

By Ian Jester de Vera
Contributor



THERE is always room for improvement.

This was the message learned by successful big companies that continuously grow with the rapidly changing business environment. Successful as they are, they still look for ways to do things better, faster and cheaper.

Real entrepreneurs never sit on their laurels. They always keep a vigilant eye on the competition, for they know that there will always be upstarts ready, at any moment, to get their business away from them.

Almost every new product or innovation we see now is the result of R&D, proto-typing, market tests and other evolutionary processes that have to happen before it reaches its best form.

If the threat of change haunts even the biggest of companies, what more for the small and medium enterprises? Where should you look to make improvements? It is not always easy to obtain a healthy perspective on your business from your own often myopic point of view. To improve your business, you need to plan strategically. Strategic planning involves all the facets of the business and all its stakeholders from the CEO to the rank and file.

"In today's market, successful companies need accurate, efficient, forward-looking planning processes that are tied to and support their business strategies," says Mike Butler, a management advisory services senior manager with Grant Thornton's New York office. He urges all organizations to reexamine their planning and budgeting processes.

He offers tips to help you plan more strategically.

Focus on competition

"Companies that focus on budgets can easily find themselves with very little money to invest," Butler says.

By focusing on competitive measurements, he advises, businesses plan their strategy around those factors that will ultimately determine their success or failure.

"Know thy enemy" seems to be the principle that gives successful companies the edge over their competitors. The most successful of them all seems to be the one with the most information about competition. The market intelligence it gathers enables it to effectively look for ways to carry out its marketing strategies. This information allows it to learn the moves of its rivals and suggests the action to take, whether offensive or defensive. For this reason military officers could also become good marketing practitioners.

Plan for the future

Proactive is the key word here. But a surprising number of companies spend valuable time rehashing past performance rather than looking toward the future. They are tied to their appraisal systems that only drag their chances of winning the market.

"Successful companies anticipate and manage for changes in external factors that will affect their performance," Butler explains. "By managing these forecasts, instead of past results, they stay focused on building success."

Complementary to a proactive approach in business operations is a wise selection of the most appropriate response to a foreseen event. A proactive approach will surely improve the business but it is really the ability to select the most suitable action to an anticipated external factor that will lead the business to success.

From the lowest level up, establish and promote key performance measures in each operating unit. These must consider all the factors that will drive success into your business, such as new customer generation, sales margins and projected growth rates, reduction of production and salary costs, and the varying means of achieving each.

The integration of these key measures into automated planning systems allows you to evaluate local plans, calculate "what-ifs," and ensure that everyone in the company is planning and managing to your strategic framework.

Invest in planning systems

Technology systems that support advanced business planning processes offer middle-market companies integrated tools that add flexibility, reduce staff time and increase planning accuracy.

"These systems often pay for themselves in the first planning cycle, even if they're measured solely by improved productivity resulting from reducing the cost of developing the annual budget," Butler explains.

The skill of strategic planning may be acquired just as doing business may be taught and learned. Seminar rooms can simulate the workplace for strategic planning. Training can play an important role for the improvement of the business especially when the workplace cannot serve as a neutral ground for managers, planners and other decision makers.

(For more information on the "Improve Your Business" course, please contact Bless Clerigo through telephone numbers 9287076 up to 79 and 926-6316. You may also register online at www.up.edu.ph/~issi.)

Big brands launch fight against fakes

From page C1

nomic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which estimated the $450 billion a year damage, Eizenstat said.

"We also want this to be a priority for law enforcement agencies. Plus we have to create consumer awareness," he added.

Efforts have already been made to organize the fight against fakes in China, which is seen as a severe counterfeit hotspot and where P&G has helped organize coalition of 80 producers in the last five years.

The software industry, led by Microsoft, has been fighting against illegal copies for 10 years. Piracy in Europe, which was 70 percent of all software 15 years ago, has been reduced to 35 percent today, Bradford Smith, general counsel for Microsoft told Reuters.

Fakes are also hurting the music industry as consumers burn CDs from other CDs or Internet downloads.

"A hit album used to sell 10 million copies. Now it's three million," said Howard Stringer, chief executive of Sony US, a unit of Japan's Sony Corp., which manages its music unit.

But he added that the music industry should partly blame itself for overcharging the consumer for CDs.

"They've charged prices for CDs that are beyond the point of what a consumer thinks is reasonable," he said, adding that the music industry should not just fight against illegal copies but also improve its behavior.

"Together with the artists we'll have to develop different pricing models, different distribution models," Stringer said.

Pepper said his shampoos could be bought from $2 to $8 a bottle, depending on the brand.

Eizenstat pointed out that some fakes, especially pharmaceuticals and food, could pose a health threat.

"This is not a victimless industry," he said. **Reuters**

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL ENVOY PROGRAM

German giant plants seeds of love for nature

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

THE ENVOYS: Jennifer, Sunshine and Ivan

SOME companies pursue environmental projects just to comply with minimum standards set by the state.

There are, however, a few others that have gone way beyond the compliance stage. To them, caring for the environment is a commitment that has become an integral part of their corporate being.

German company Bayer AG belongs to the second category. Its involvement in the crusade for environmental protection started a hundred years ago, long before terms like "corporate social and environmental responsibility" and "sustainable development" took their present meaning.

Bayer AG had invested and is continuously investing billions of dollars in waste management facilities and other machinery and equipment that keep its operations throughout the world safe to the environment and the populace.

But its commitment to mother nature does not stop there. The company has gone beyond its premises to reach out and spread this passion for the environment and sustainable development as widely as possible.

And it is in pursuit of this goal that Bayer AG adopted the Young Environmental Envoy Program.

Young envoys

The program is specifically aimed at the youth for Bayer believes that "planting the seeds of love for nature" in their young minds and hearts now will ensure a greener and richer world in the future.

Udo Oels, a member of Bayer's board of management, says the program aims to get young people to assume greater ownership of the environment and environmental activities.

Through the Young Environmental Envoy Program, carefully chosen participants are provided the means to understand the situation they are in and to explore solutions to environmental problems that they encounter.

'Ecocamp'

The YEEP is a joint initiative of Bayer and the United Nations. From Thailand, where the project was born in mid 1990s, it spread to the Philippines, Singapore and India. And, for Bayer, there is no stopping there as it intends to take into the fold more countries in the coming years.

Every year, 10 to 20 young envoys are selected through a tight screening process in each covered country for participation in the program, which is highlighted by a week-long visit to Germany for the top five to seven envoys.

The program reached the Philippines in 2001. It is implemented here by Bayer in partnership with Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation (a Non-Governmental Organization that focuses on the environment) and in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education.

Every year, Bayer Philippines picks program participants from among 18- to 23-year-old college students who are already involved in projects or organizations related to environmental preservation and sustainability. They are selected based on a grade-point average requirement (an average of not less than 2.0 or 85 percent) and on the essays on environmental issues that they are required to submit.

Last year, 13 students were selected—four from Metro Manila, three from Luzon, two from the Visayas and four from Mindanao—out of more than 200 who applied.

All the 13 envoys attended a three-day 'ecocamp' in Baguio City, which was facilitated by the environmental science department of the Ateneo de Manila University.

At the end of the 'ecocamp,' participants were asked to submit their personal action plans for implementation in the near term. The action plans must be 'doable' and high-impact projects, particularly in the communities they are intended for.

Based on these plans, five out of the 13 participants this year were selected for a week-long, all expense-paid trip to Germany, particularly in the municipality of Leverkusen, practically a "Bayer country" for it is where the company's main operations and headquarters are located.

The envoys met with key Bayer officials, led by Oels, and were given a tour of the company's and Leverkusen's environmental facilities. They got to visit Bayer's waste water treatment facility, lysimeter facility and thermal waste management plant; the Monheim Agriculture Center, and the Leverkusen Municipal Waste Management facility.

Personal missions

The five envoys from the Philippines who attended the 'ecotour' in Gemany last year were Bonar Laureto, a 20-year-old BS Biology senior at the Central Mindanao University; Jennifer Orbeso, a 19-year-old nursing student of the Universidad de Naga City; 21-year-old Stephanie Sunshine Sy, a BS Applied Economics student of the Dela Salle University Manila; 18-year-old Shenna Rhea Maranguit, an information technology student of the Immaculate Concepcion in Davao City, and Ivan Pumaren, a 20-year-old political science senior at the West Visayas State University.

Bonar, who at his tender age is already a multi-awarded inventor, was the appointed group leader.

He may have already invented lots of things, including a system to convert solid wastes from sugar land, but for his YEEP action plan, Bonar chose a simple but meaningful project—a non-industrial solid waste segregation program in the city of Valencia in his province Bukidnon.

An active youth leader and a youth-oriented radio program anchor, Jennifer has formulated and is now actually implementing a plan to establish an 'eco-park' on Mt. Isarog in Bicol. This is in line with her mission to intensify the greening activities in the area where she also intends to establish a seedling nursery and butterfly garden.

Sunshine presently resides and studies in Manila but her heart still belongs to her beloved hometown, Palawan, which has been slowly but surely rising again from the ruins left by the rampant logging that plagued the province not so long ago.

She adopted as her action plan a program which she calls "Pay It Green Forward Movement."

Sunshine's program is aimed at providing livelihood options to marginal farmers in her area.

Noble missions

"Water is life," so says Shenna, the youngest of the five envoys, who had come to realize early on in her life how watershed areas in the country, particularly in Davao where she lives, were being threatened by industries, plantations and the people themselves.

This explains her resolve to pursue, for her YEEP action plan, the Sagip Watershed project, involving an intensive information campaign and tree planting activities that can prevent further soil erosion in her area.

Ivan, who was born and raised in the agricultural town of Pototan, Iloilo, dreams of becoming a diplomat or an international lawyer some day and he is working hard to attain this goal.

A simple guy with a noble mission of making a difference in his community, Ivan has for his action plan prepared a composting project that will address the problem of increasing organic and inorganic wastes from his area's municipal market.

These projects are just dreams now but with the idealism of the envoys and their dedication to the protection of mother nature, chances are these dreams are going to be a reality soon.

Bayer has been bringing the environmental envoys to Germany not to give them a junket of a lifetime but for them to see for themselves what can be done to ensure a greener tomorrow.

'Scientific' farming . . .

From page C8

teacher in his hometown for seven years until he grew dissatisfied with the profession and decided to emigrate to Bauang to become a farmer in 1987.

"Financially, we started from zero," Ramos said.

Because his wife used to work at the Lomboy grape farm in Bauang as marketing manager, she had knowledge of grape cultivation. The couple started with 200 vines of green grapes planted on 800 square meters of land in Urayong.

"My harvest after three months was equal to my one-year salary as a teacher. *Maganda ang presyo noon. Wala pang* importation (The price was good. There was no importation yet)," he mused.

Later the couple expanded to rice, followed by other crops.

"*Marami akong hirap na dinanas* (I experienced many difficulties)," he said with a grimace and without need to elaborate.

Today he cultivates a five-hectare farm as a tenant and hires six farm hands. Each square foot of earth is planted with every edible plant one can think of, outnumbering those mentioned in the elementary school ditty "Bahay Kubo."

Maricor takes charge of bookkeeping and marketing while their five children also help by selling the goods whenever and wherever they can—in school, at the public market or at the Department of Agriculture compound in the city on assigned days.

Four hectares of the land he tills is devoted to the high-yielding rice variety PSBRc82. This, coupled with new technology such as the application of a soil conditioner containing beneficial microorganisms, has kept his farm inputs down to only P5,000 per hectare.

He projects that this rice variety would yield 1 kilogram per square meter or 10 tons per hectare. He would sell this as milled rice, which is more profitable, he explained.

He also grows papayas, bananas, squash (which yields 50-60 bundles of flowers per day and sells for 2.50 per bundle), patola, sitaw, ampalaya, guapples, ube, sili and even tobacco.

Hybrid tomato

In partnership with the DMMMSU, he planted his 1,000 square meters to a hybrid tomato called MMMSU Hybrid 1. With each plant able to yield 3 to 5 kg of fruit, Ramos expects to make a net income of P45,000 come harvest time.

But his biggest income earners are off-season fruits and vegetables such as watermelons and sayote, which require extra care and attention to grow.

He has been propagating ilang-ilang saplings to be supplied to a government agency for one of its projects.

As a *magsasakang siyentipiko*, Ramos constantly experiments on organic remedies to his farm problems.

Fashion firm . . .

From page C8

pean components. "Do I dare say they are not made in China?" says Malka.

"The materials are bought from several sources. There's no differentiation. We have to look from the upper development and bottom development, and export to a country whose labor costs we can manage."

He adds, "If you buy a Mercedes, there are more Chinese parts than German parts. I'm not getting turned off. I'm looking at the overall value and the image it portrays."

The pricing strategy is based on the dictates of the local market.

"Our customer is an impulse buyer, so our styling has to be nice. Filipinos are price-sensitive. You need competitive products at competitive price," he explains. "In the Philippines, people's average disposable income is equivalent to $8,000 a year. Americans have an average disposable income of $18,000 a year."

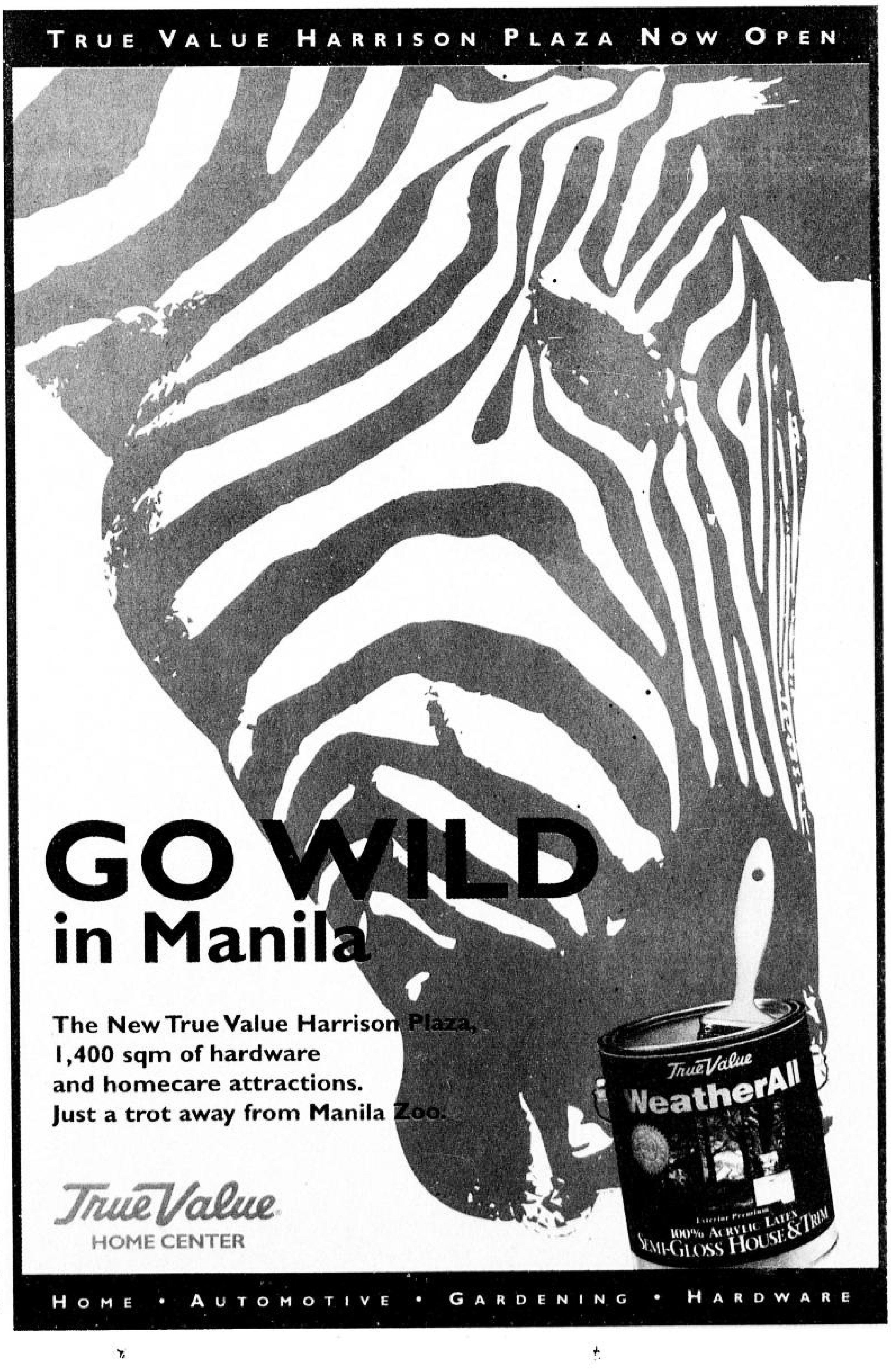
Guess Sport costs P1,500 to P3,000. When the fashion footwear will be launched in the summer at the Guess stores, the prices will range from P3,000 to P3,500.

Malka says that the Philippines has a good junior market that follows trends but the goods have to be affordable. "You can always dream of your dream car but you need your Toyota," says Malka.

The target market suits the juvenile image of Guess. "I want to go to a hot bar. I want to SMS that guy all day. I want to be happy. I don't want to do marathon. When I have Guess on I feel good. I am a complete package from denim, eyewear, footwear, watch and perfume."

Why would a global brand want to do business in the Philippines despite the fluctuating exchange rate and the flaccid economy?

Malka replies, "There's a tremendous amount of American influence. It's the test model of most conglomerates to try their brand outside of the US. They don't exist anywhere else but here. In the Philippines, Guess is one of the few brands that have been nationalized. It's been adapted by the Filipinos as their brand."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The New True Value Harrison Plaza, 1,400 sqm of hardware and homecare attractions. Just a trot away from Manila Zoo.
True Value HOME CENTER
True Value WeatherAll 100% Acrylic Latex Semi-Gloss House & Trim
HOME • AUTOMOTIVE • GARDENING • HARDWARE

Personnel Management Association of the Philippines

MESSAGES

[illegible] greetings to the men and women [illegible] Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) on the occasion of your 42nd General Membership Meeting and Induction Ceremonies.

The focus of our administration is to strengthen the economy, create more jobs and encourage business activity [illegible] within our society, and work for [illegible] for the next one and a half year.

The support of all sectors of society is imperative in attaining these goals. Human capital remains our most valuable wealth and PMAP is once again called upon to be at the forefront of reforms geared towards lasting national growth. [illegible] take this opportunity to congratulate your outgoing officers and directors for their sterling performance in leading PMAP [illegible] a partner of national progress.

[illegible] congratulations to all of you [illegible]

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

[illegible] like to extend my warmest greetings to the officers, members and guests of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

[illegible] would also like to congratulate the PMAP on the occasion of its 42nd General Membership Meeting and Induction Ceremonies for the 2003 Officers and Directors on January 29, 2003. [illegible] PMAP focuses on its overall objective of optimizing [illegible] the economic and political adversities. [illegible] taught us the talent, human ingenuity and collective [illegible] intangible assets will give us competitive edge [illegible] proud and happy that the leaders of PMAP have taken note [illegible] preparing for human resource management reforms [illegible] in the era of globalization.

[illegible] congratulations to the incoming 2003 PMAP Officers and Board [illegible] who will be responsible for charting the organization's direction toward [illegible] contributions to the development of human capital. With the generous support of its members and friends, I am certain the PMAP will [illegible] enhance and tap the enormous potentials of our people.

[illegible] PMAP and wish everyone continued success [illegible]

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President

PERSONNEL management practitioners have helped [illegible] a competent, highly skilled Filipino workforce [illegible] skills training [illegible] potentials [illegible] economy forward.

[illegible] Personnel Management [illegible] Philippines (PMAP) [illegible] Department of Labor and Employment [illegible] industrial peace and harmony, and ensured labor standards compliance. [illegible] PMAP has also widened opportunities [illegible] capabilities of Filipino workers and managers.

The intense global competition demands workers' adaptability and flexibility [illegible] this direction. Undoubtedly, PMAP has been [illegible] corporate identity and mission among Filipino companies [illegible] helped several small and medium enterprises [illegible] personnel management programs.

[illegible] PMAP [illegible] industrial peace [illegible] progress [illegible]

I join the social partners, civil society and key sectors [illegible] congratulation to PMAP [illegible] chapters nationwide [illegible] companies [illegible] on this important day.

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary

THIS YEAR, the PMAP 2003 Board has adopted for its theme "Optimizing Human Capital in Times of Adversity." This theme is [illegible] affirmation that human capital is the only source of continuing competitive advantage. This is especially true in times of adversity. The challenge, therefore, is to unleash and optimize the hidden potentials of our people to overcome our present difficulties in running our respective businesses.

The guiding philosophy for this year's administration is [illegible] upholding the value and importance of people [illegible] productivity.

Our projects for this year are geared towards this philosophy. The PMAP Board for 2003 has lined up legacy projects such as the establishment of an HR school to ensure the continuous supply of competent HR practitioners, the creation of a Board of Ethical Standards that will ensure that the practice of the profession is within acceptable norms, the publication of a Handbook to guide HR Practitioners in carrying out day-to-day activities, the Certification [illegible] for corporations to encourage the practice of HR philosophies throughout the organization, [illegible] guidelines [illegible] advocacy concerning the profession, the establishment of [illegible] among Filipino HR practitioners in the Asia Pacific Region, [illegible] Annual Conference [illegible] programs.

[illegible] Human Resource [illegible] difference in the lives of people [illegible] and its members.

SGD. RAMON S. MEDINA, FPM
2003 President
Personnel Management Association of the Philippines

'Optimizing Human Capital in Times of Adversity'

By Gerry A. Plana

ADVERSITY is a strong word. However, it is a word that best describes the situation we are in. Hearing the word adversity brings to mind visions of extreme difficulties and unbearable hardships. Since the late 70's, our world has changed dramatically. We have been witnesses to the growing turbulence in our environment as we faithfully conducted our businesses. The environment has become so hostile threatening the very survival of even the most powerful and profitable business organizations in the world. We all know the story of IBM, General Motors or Xerox, to name a few.

Against the backdrop of an international scenario of a looming world war triggered by the US-Iraq conflict, globalization that appears to favor the more advanced countries and technology advances which has accelerated the cycle of obsolescence coupled with a national scenario characterized by the usual "jitters" associated the forthcoming national elections, a ballooning budget deficit, and widespread corruption — we will certainly be in for still a rough ride. Survival will still be the main theme for individuals and organizations alike.

However, despite all these gloom, the bright side is our present era is also called the age of human capital. The age of human capital is the age where people have become the true sources of competitive edge. Once upon a time, proclaiming people to be their greatest assets was just a good PR statement. Now, the life of our businesses depend on our people. At a time when traditional sources of competitive advantage are loosing their importance, the human factor is emerging as the real and lasting source of competitive edge. The shift from personnel to HR is a shift in focus – from laborers only to the entire human population of the organization as beneficiaries of its services. The shift from HR to human capital is a significant shift in mindset – from resource that is owned and used to a true partner and co-investor in business. For indeed, in the age of human capital, people invest their precious ideas, knowledge, and talent to make their respective organizations competitive.

These new breed of people, often referred to as knowledge-workers, contribute their true value by using their brains rather than their hands. A knowledge worker is a person who primarily deals in data and ideas. We have discovered that the amount of information and skills that everyone needs to perform their work has been rising steadily all through the 19th and 20th centuries. Our dependence on information and knowledge in order to do our work has been steadily increasing. It is no accident that knowledge content in work kept rising.

Adversity either brings out the worst or the best in us. Adversity can either break us or strengthen us. Despite the generally gloomy scenario, our challenge is to search for incidents and events that bring hope. For instance, when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did the unexpected, she brought new hope to our country's future. From a micro perspective, the challenge of optimizing human capital in times of adversity requires first and foremost a change in our mindset as far as managing people are concerned. .The mindset should uphold the value and importance of people. If we have this mindset then it is our business to make them happy similar to the way we crack our heads making our customers happy. We do this knowing pretty well that a happy knowledge worker is a productive person.

Once we have achieved this, the rest is merely implementing programs and initiating practices consistent with this philosophy. Such programs and practices may involve competency building activities, trust building practices, or commitment generating programs.

The challenge is we have to overcome adversity by unleashing the hidden potentials of our people. We have to rise above our situation by being creative in our approaches in optimizing human capital.

We have started the journey in this new age. We stand to discover many things yet. Together, we can make that journey pleasant and fulfilling.

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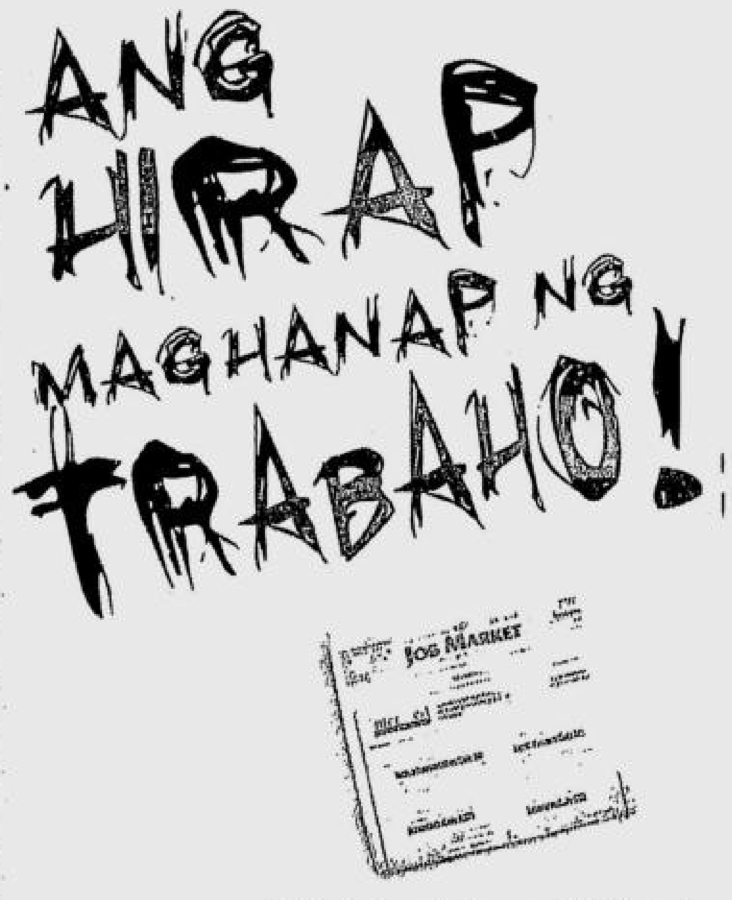
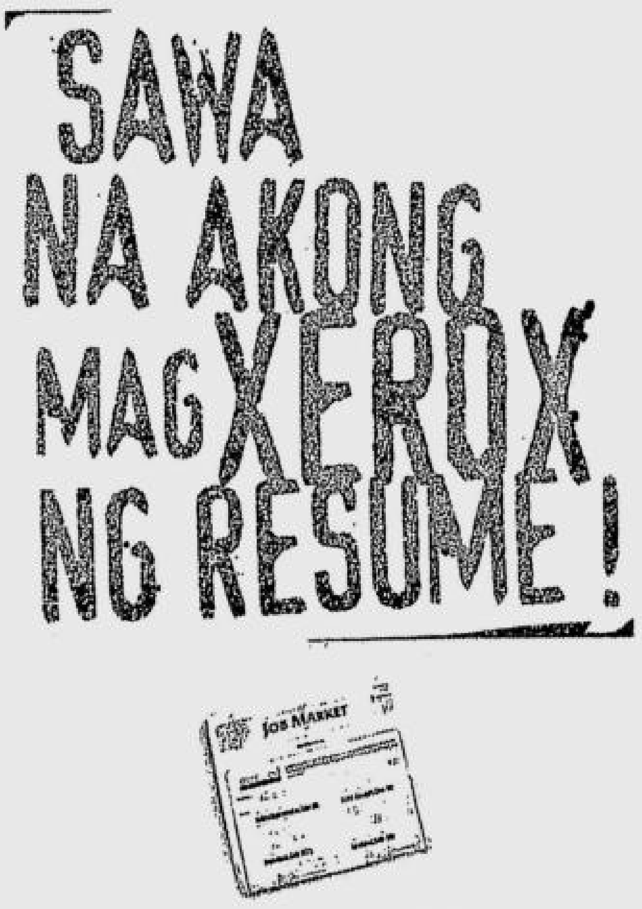
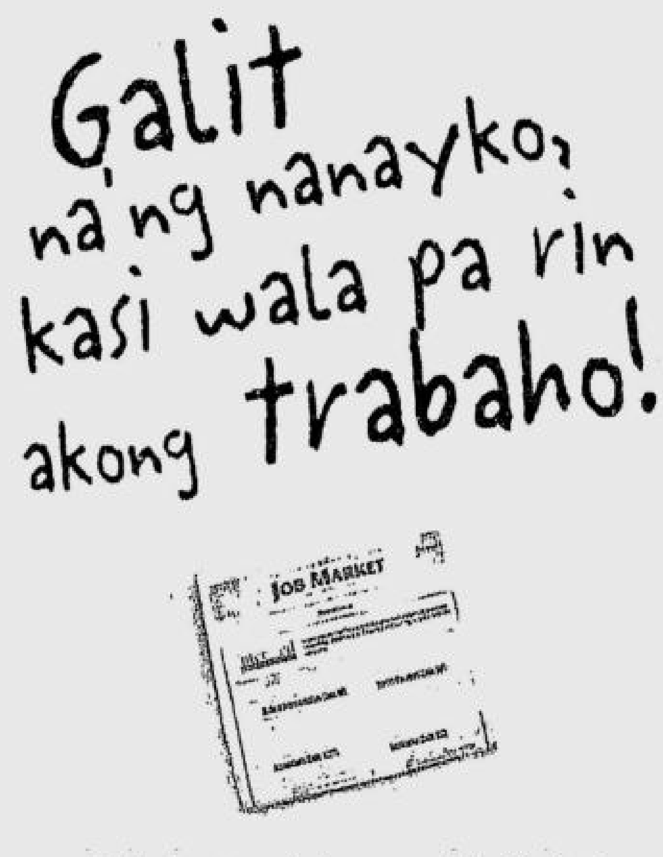

ANG HIRAP MAGHANAP NG TRABAHO!
JOB MARKET

Di ka kasi nagbabasa ng Job Market.
Trabaho lang. Walang personals. JOB MARKET


SAWA NA AKONG MAGXEROX NG RESUME!
JOB MARKET

Di ka kasi nagbabasa ng Job Market.
Trabaho lang. Walang personals. JOB MARKET


Galit na'ng nanayko, kasi wala pa rin akong trabaho!
JOB MARKET

Di ka kasi nagbabasa ng Job Market.
JOB MARKET Trabaho lang. Walang personals.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PMAP – The Association of Professional Achievers

The Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) is a strictly professional, non-stock, not-for-profit organization of over 1,000 member companies, as well as individual management executives engaged or interested in human resource management (HRM) and industrial relations (IR) work. Founded over 40 years ago, PMAP has one primary goal: To help advance the profession, the science and the art of human resource management.

As a professional association, PMAP helps institutions improve the human aspect of management and the development of their human resources. It promotes the HRM profession by developing the professional skills of HRM practitioners and establishing the standards of excellence for the practice of the profession. It also aims to help mold an enlightened, competent, socially responsible and influential sector of people managers, who can effectively participate in nation building.

PMAP helps its members become more effective on the job by offering numerous career development opportunities and services.

Over Four Decades of Professional Traditions

On September 29, 1956, thirty-seven (37) executives representing various industrial and business establishments in Manila held the first organizational meeting at the Rizal Hall of the U.P. Institute of Public Administration. They believed then – as members still do today – that an association must be organized in a manner that directly addresses its members' needs, and responds to the imperative of growth, whether of the individual, company or even of the nation. Guided by this common belief, these 37 executives set into motion the establishment of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines.

On October 13, 1956, the PMAP Constitution was ratified and the first Board of Directors and Officers were elected. Mr. Perfecto Sison of AG&P was elected as the first PMAP President. Thus began the impressive professional growth of PMAP.

7 Legacy Projects for 2003

1. School - pave the way for the establishment of the HR school
2. Certification – develop criteria and system for Employer of Choice accreditation
3. National Conference – have a multi-sectoral annual conference with a strong international dimension
4. Code – develop and launch a "code of ethics" for HR professionals
5. Linkages – establish local and international linkages to project PMAP positively
6. Advocacy – promote the interests of PMAP through sustained assertive advocacy
7. Book – come out with a PMAP

Just a few of the reasons you'll like flying with us.

ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	DC9	0130	0240	P2,199*	P4,398*	P1,849	P3,698
	5J - 559	Daily	DC9	0500	0610	P2,569	P5,138		
	5J - 561	Daily	DC9	0700	0810				
	5J - 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010				
	5J - 565	Daily	DC9	1100	1210				
	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410				
	5J - 577	Wed/Sat	B757	1325	1435				
	5J - 569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610				
	5J - 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810				
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	DC9	0500	0640	P3,239	P6,478	P2,288	P4,576
	5J - 963	Daily	DC9	0930	1110				
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1320	1500				
	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1540	1720				
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,239	P6,478	P2,349	P4,698
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0900	1025				
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,569	P5,138	P1,999	P3,998
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320				
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0500	0600	P2,449	P4,898	P1,599	P3,198
	5J - 453	Daily	DC9	0620	0720				
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055				
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1600	1700				
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0510	0610	P2,449	P4,898	P1,799	P3,598
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100				
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750				
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0520	0650	P3,239	P6,478	P2,079	P4,158
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0530	0630	P2,199	P4,398	P1,799	P3,598
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1300	1410	P2,569	P5,138	P1,999	P3,998
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0950	1040	P2,569	P5,138	P1,999	P3,998
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	0900	1025	P3,239	P6,478	P2,349	P4,698
SUBIC	5J - 102	Th/Sun	B757	1210	1240	P500	P999	-	-

* Promotional Value Fare

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 556	Th/Sun	B757	0300	0410	P2,199*	P4,398*	-	-
	5J - 558	Daily	DC9	0400	0510	P2,199*	P4,398*	P1,849	P3,698
	5J - 560	Daily	DC9	0700	0810	P2,569	P5,138		
	5J - 562	Daily	DC9	0900	1010				
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210				
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410				
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610				
	5J - 570	Daily	DC9	1700	1810				
	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010				
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0800	0850	P2,249	P4,498	P1,649	P3,298
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540				
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/F/Sat	DC9	0905	1000	P2,319	P4,638	P1,969	P3,938
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1750	1825	P1,759	P3,518	P1,249	P2,498
BACOLOD	5J - 126	Daily	DC9	0810	0840	P1,539	P3,078	P 999	P1,998

* Promotional Value Fare

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	DC9	0720	0900	P3,239	P6,478	P2,288	P4,576
	5J - 964	Daily	DC9	1210	1350				
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1540	1720				
	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1800	1940				
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0930	1020	P2,249	P4,498	P1,649	P3,298
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1620	1710				
ILOILO –via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1620	1825	P3,195	P6,390	P2,199	P4,398
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	Tu/Th/Sun	DC9	0910	1010	P2,319	P4,638	P2,049	P4,098

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1450	1600	P2,569	P5,138	P1,999	P3,998

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0920	1020	P2,449	P4,898	P1,799	P3,598
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250				
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940				
CEBU	5J - 125	Daily	DC9	0700	0730	P1,539	P3,078	P999	P 1,998

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1115	1240	P3,239	P6,478	P2,349	P4,698

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 454	Daily	DC9	0800	0900	P2,449	P4,898	P1,599	P3,198
	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235				
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1740	1840				
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1905	2005				
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0640	0715	P1,759	P3,518	P1,249	P2,498
DAVAO –via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0640	0850	P3,195	P6,390	P2,199	P4,398

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,569	P5,138	P1,999	P3,998
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510				

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1050	1220	P3,239	P6,478	P2,079	P4,158
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/F/Sat	DC9	0730	0825	P2,319	P4,638	P1,969	P3,938
DAVAO	5J - 394	Tu/Th/Sun	DC9	0730	0830	P2,319	P4,638	P2,049	P4,098

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P2,199	P4,398	P1,799	P3,598

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,239	P6,478	P2,349	P4,698
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1105	1230				

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1120	1210	P2,569	P5,138	P1,999	P3,998

ORIGIN: SUBIC

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	VALUE ONE-WAY	VALUE ROUNDTRIP	2-DAY ADVANCE ONE-WAY	2-DAY ADVANCE ROUNDTRIP
MANILA	5J - 103	Th/Sun	B757	2330	2400	P500	P999	-	-

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	-	TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD*	ETA*
MANILA	-	HONGKONG	5J - 110	Daily	B757/DC9	0700	0900
			5J - 118	Daily	B757/DC9	1640	1840
HONG KONG	-	MANILA	5J - 111	Daily	B757/DC9	1000	1200
			5J - 119	Daily	B757/DC9	1940	2140
MANILA	-	SEOUL	5J - 194	Mon	B757	1340	1840
			5J - 1944	Fri	B757	1340	1840
CEBU	-	SEOUL	5J - 128	Wed	B757	1535	2115
			5J - 1288	Sat	B757	1535	2115
SUBIC	-	SEOUL	5J - 196	Th	B757	1340	1840
			5J - 1966	Sun	B757	1340	1840
SEOUL	-	MANILA	5J - 195	Mon	B757	1955	2250
			5J - 1955	Fri	B757	1955	2250
SEOUL	-	CEBU	5J - 129	Wed	B757	2225	0155
			5J - 1299	Sat	B757	2225	0155
SEOUL	-	SUBIC	5J - 197	Th	B757	1955	2250
			5J - 1977	Sun	B757	1955	2250

*Local Time

NOTES:
- *2-Day Advance Purchase fares are subject to CAB approval and may change without prior notice. Limited seats only.*
- *All tickets are REFUNDABLE, REROUTABLE and UPGRADABLE to valid higher fare types. All issued tickets are NON-TRANSFERRABLE.*
- *Insurance surcharge of P250 per sector is applicable to all fare types.*
- *Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable to Normal Fares only.*
- *All fares are subject to government approval and are exclusive of government tax.*
- *All fares and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.*
- *MNL/CEB 5J 557, CEB/MNL 5J 556 & 5J 558 have Promotional Value Fares of P2,199 (one-way) & P4,398 (roundtrip).*

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Inquirer awards its sales and marketing team

EVERYBODY went home a winner.

The air was thick with expectation the night of Jan. 21 at the posh, full-packed MyCinema theater in Greenbelt 3. The occasion: the Inquirer Sales and Marketing Awards for 2002.

The entire sales and marketing team—encompassing the advertising, classifieds, marketing, and circulation departments of the Philippines' leading broadsheet—were commended for a job well done in 2002.

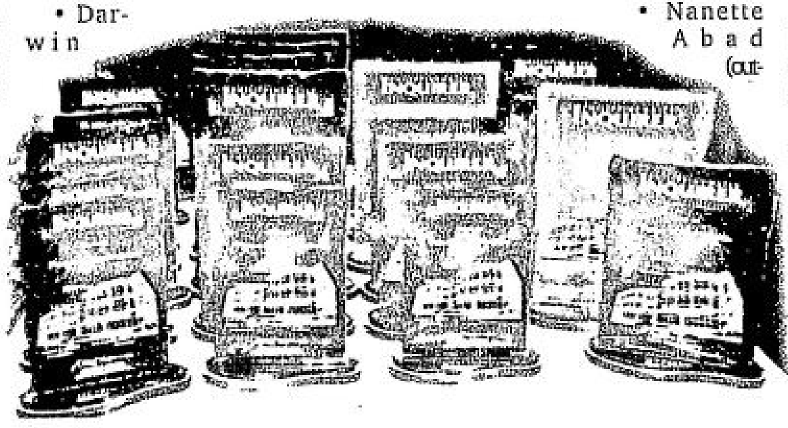
Top executives from the Inquirer were also on hand to either witness the proceedings or to hand out the awards themselves. They included board chair Marixi R. Prieto, president Sandy Prieto Romualdez, SVP for sales and marketing Renato R. Reinoso, SVP for corporate services David O. Valdes, VP for advertising Felipe R. Olarte, VP for finance Jun Ymson, and AVP for circulation Gloria P. Lardizabal.

The awardees were serenaded by Inquirer's homegrown talents Darwin Romanillos, who sang his own rendition of Ariel Rivera's "Ayoko na Sana", and Shirman Tan and Bong Rabaya, who sang Barry Manilow's "I Made it Through the Rain" in duet. Advertising supplement's Aries Espinosa and Normandy de la Paz emceed the event.

Afterwards, the sales and marketing team was treated to a free film showing of the "Lord of the Rings; The Two Towers".

The awardees were:

- Roger Fellizar (most outstanding fieldman)
- The entire advertising desk (for outstanding use of the Pongrass system) led by Rey Cruz
- Jenny Rockwell and Izelle Medina (for outstanding growth of advertising sales of Inquirer Libre)
- The entire classifieds production team (for outstanding performance leading to the sales growth of the division) led by Mhar delos Reyes
- Darwin Romanillos (classified's best in production design/layout)
- Adriano de Jesus (classified's highest in production accuracy and production output, for production specialist)
- Lala Montesines (classified's highest in production accuracy, for production assistant)
- Joel Macawile (classified's highest in production output, for production assistant)
- Nanette Abad (outstanding performance leading to the growth of provincial classifieds sales)
- Adela Mendoza (outstanding performance leading to the growth of National Classifieds sales)
- The advertising supplements team (outstanding contribution and support leading to the increase in supplements sales volume), led by Aries Espinosa
- Lita Pascual and Magella Pinili (most outstanding account executives for supplements)
- Elena de los Reyes and Magella Pinili (most outstanding account executives for other products)
- The circulation division (outstanding performance contributing to the growth of circulation sales and market share)
- The advertising division (outstanding performance contributing to the growth of advertising sales and market share)
- The classifieds division (outstanding performance contributing to the growth of classifieds sales and market share)
- The marketing division (outstanding performance contributing to the growth of sales and marketing division)
- Arnold Gatdula of Megamall branch (3rd best classifieds account executive)
- Eric Salazar of Kalaw branch (2nd best classifieds account executive)
- Liberty Lalicon of Makati-Atrium branch (most outstanding classifieds account executive)
- Cecille Gallardo of Megamall branch (3rd best classifieds branch manager)
- Liwayway Tabaranza of the main office (2nd best classifieds branch manager)
- Babes Good (most outstanding branch manager)
- Elena de los Reyes (3rd best advertising account executive)
- Lita Pascual (2nd best advertising account executive)
- Magella Pinili (most outstanding advertising account executive)



PRESIDENT Romualdez: the only way to stay on top is to be even better in 2003.

SVP for sales and marketing Reinoso: producing good numbers despite the economic crunch of 2002.

BABES Good: grateful to her staff.

AGGIE Pinili: hard work and prayers did it.

ADVERTISING'S best performers in 2002, from left (with flowers and plaques) Lita Pascual, Aggie Pinili and Elena de los Reyes.

FIRST things first. Human resources head Chito San Mateo leads a prayer of gratitude to the Lord.

SVP for corporate services Dave Valdes (center), marketing and classifieds head Donald Lim (2nd from right), and Inquirer board chair Marixi Prieto (right) join Reinoso and Ms Romualdez.

IZELLE Medina (left) and Jenny Rockwell receive their plaques for their performance for Inquirer Libre.

NANETTE Abad: tapping the provinces reaps rewards

CLASSIFIEDS branch managers recognized: from left, holding bouquets, Liwayway Tabaranza, Babes Good, and Cecille Gallardo.

MARKETING division awarded: from left, holding plaque, Mirasol Cabuhat, Hazel Soriaga, and Chris Vida (right).

VP for advertising Pepito R. Olarte (left) and VP for finance Jun Ymson (3rd from left) join marketing's Soriaga, Lim, and Reinoso.

CLASSIFIEDS production team, from left, Lala Montesines, Darwin Romanillos, Joel Macawile, and Mhar de los Reyes.

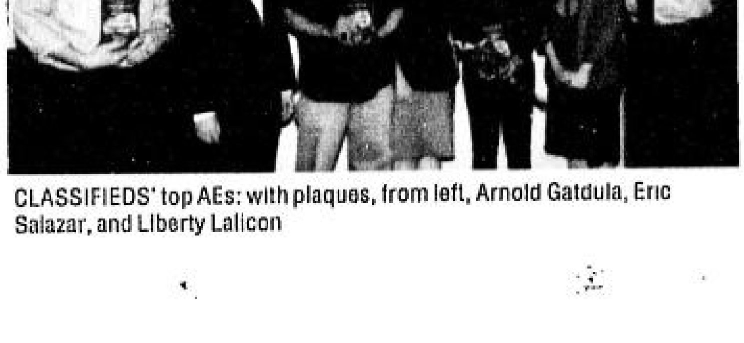
REY Cruz accepts the advertising desk award.

ROGER Fellizar is outstanding fieldman.

CIRCULATION

ADVERTISING

CLASSIFIEDS


CLASSIFIEDS' top AEs: with plaques, from left, Arnold Gatdula, Eric Salazar, and Liberty Lalicon

19TH YEAR-ENDER CONSUMERS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Top consumers and companies *honored at the* 19th Year-Ender Awards

THE NATION once again honored Top Consumer Products & Companies, as well as Outstanding Achievers in various fields during the 19th Annual YEAR-ENDER EXCELLENCE AWARDS & CONSUMERS CHOICE AWARDS in commemoration of the 2002 Rizal Day and the Year-Ender Celebration last December 30 at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Sponsored by FUNDADOR jointly with ENSURE, CAMEL APPLIANCES, EMPIRE EAST LAND HOLDINGS, BODEGA NG BAYAN (BNB), AMA UNIVERSITY, SAMSUNG CELL & TELEVISION, BODY & SOUL, ENSURE, RUSTAN'S and FIESTA SPAGHETTI, Outstanding Filipino Achievers and Top Consumer Products & Companies of the Year were honored together with Asia-Pacific Achievers based in any of the Asia-Pacific nations.

The event was marked with festivities, with various consumer entities providing food samplings and showcasing various products and amenities plus the lively rendition of the entertainment numbers by comedienne-singers Beverly Salviejo and Marissa Sanchez and the world-renown Karangahan Phil. Dance Company. Samsung TV & Cellular Phone won the Best Showcase Exhibit during the event.

The 2002 Hall of Fame Consumers Excellence Awardees are: A-1 Driving Company (Top Driving School); AMA COMPUTER UNIVERSITY (Top Computer-Based University); ASIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH CARE (Top Care-Giver School); BAGUIO OIL (Top Cooking Oil Brand); Blue Magic (Top Gift Shop); CDO (Top Processed-Meat Brand); CAMEL (Top Appliances Brand); CITIBEDS, INC. (Top Bed Manufacturer);

CEBUANA LHUILLIER PAWNSHOP (Top Pawnshop Company); CLEENE COTTON (Top Cotton Brand); EIDREF TRAVEL & TOURS (Top Travel & Tours Company); ELLEN'S SKIN CARE CENTER (Top Skin Care Center); ENERVON PRIME (Top Adult Chocolate Nutritional Drinks Brand); GOLDILOCKS (Top Bakeshop);

KOOLER INDUSTRIES (Top Water Cooler Manufacturer); MANILA HOTEL (Top Hotel); MERCURY DRUG (Top Drug Store Chain); UNION PORTLAND CEMENT (Top Cement Brand); LIGO (Top Canned Sardines Brand); LIKAS PAPAYA (Top Herbal Soap); MSA ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT INSTITUTE (Top Academic Tutorial & Review Center); and PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER (Top Newspaper);

The 2002 TOP CONSUMER PRODUCTS & COMPANIES OF THE YEAR are: ABENSON (Top Appliance Dealer); ADIDAS (Top Sports Apparel); ADMIRAL MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (Top Maritime Training Institute); AMBASSADOR BED (Top Bed Brand); ATHENA (Top Feminine Milk Brand); BABYFLO GENTLE BUDS (Top Cotton Buds); BABYFLO FEEDING BOTTLE (Top Feeding Bottle Brand); BODEGA NG BAYAN (BNB) (Top Housewares Retailer);

BODY & SOUL (Top Skin Care Products); BLUE CROSS HEALTHCARE, INC. (Top HMO Company); BUNTIS SHOP (Top Specialty Store); CARICA (Top Herbal Products Brand); CATTLEYA (Top Notebook Brand); CELIA UMALI ENTERPRISES (Top Wedding Services Company); CHINESE COMMERCIAL NEWS (Top Chinese Language Newspaper); CHARMS & CRYSTALS (Top Innovative Venture); CHILDREN'S CLUSIVOL (Top Children's Vitamins Brand); CHRIS SPORTS PLAZA (Top Sports Center); CIMECH BOILER (Top Boiler Brand);

CLARA OLE (Top Tomato Sauce Brand); CONQUEROR INTERNATIONAL (Top shoe Manufacturer); CONVERSE (Top Men's Apparel Brand); CRAYOLA (Top Crayon Brand); DAKKI (Top Direct Sales Company); DIATABS (Top Anti-Diarrheal Medicine Brand); DRYPERS (Top Diaper Brand); EIGHT O'CLOCK (Top Powdered Juice Brand); EMPIRE EAST LAND HOLDINGS, INC. (Top Real Estate Developer); ENSURE (Top Adult Milk Product Brand); FED DISTRIBUTOR (Top Energy-Saver Distributor);

FIESTA SPAGHETTI (Top Spaghetti Brand); FILA (Top Athletic Gear Brand); FIRST QUADRANT (Top multi-Level Marketing (MLM) Company); FORTUNE TOBACCO CORP. (Top Cigarette Manufacturer); REAL FRESH MILK (Top Fresh Milk Brand); FUNDADOR (Top Liqour Brand); FUJI SCALE (Top Scale Brand); GARDENIA (Top Loaf Bread Brand); GMA CHANNEL 7 (Top Television Network);

GOLD LEAF (Top Tea Brand); GREEN CROSS (Top Rubbing Alcohol Brand); HAPEE (Top Toothpaste Brand); HARDIFLEX (Top Building Board Brand); HEALTHCARE MARKETING & SERVICES CORP. (Top Herbal Medicine Marketing Company); IDEAL VISION CENTER (Top Optical Shop); INNOBEV (Top Innovative Beverage Brand); JANCEN COSMETIC SURGERY CLINIC (Top Cosmetic Surgery Clinic); JANSPORTS (Top Daypack Brand);

JOHNSON WAX (Top Floor wax); KAMISETA (Top Female Apparel Brand); KAWASAKI (Top Motorcycle Brand); KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN (Top Fast food Chain); KIDDI PHARMATON (Top Children's Vitamins Brand); LIFE EXTENSION MEDICAL CENTER (Top Geriatrics Center); LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA (Top Pizza Chain); LIWANAG CANDLES (Top Candles Brand); L'OREAL (Top Cosmetic Company); LOVE ELECTRONICS SERVICE CENTER (Top Electronics Service Company); LUDY'S PEANUT BUTTER (Top Peanut Butter Brand); MASS THERAPUETIC OPTIMUM (MOT) (Top Reflexology Center);

MAYBELLINE(Top Cosmetic Brand); MINOLA(Top Cooking Oil Brand); MONGOL(Top Pencil Brand); MR. QUICKIE(Top Innovative BSusiness Venture); NIVEA(Top Lotion Brand); NESTLE KOKOKRUNCH(Top breakfast Cereals Brand); NOVELLINO ITALIAN WINES(Top Wine Brand); ORBITZ(Top Innovative Business Venture); OROCAN(Best Plastic Products Brand); PEARL OF THE PACIFIC(Top Resort); PIGEON FEEDING BOTTLES(Top Baby's Feeding Bottles); PLAYTEX(Top Female Undergarments Brand); PUREFOODS (Top Hotdog Brand); QUAKER OATS(Top Oatmeal Brand);

RALPH LAUREN(Top Perfume Brand); RICHWELL TRAIDING(Top Toy Distributor); ROYAL STAR APPLIANCES(Top Appliances Retailer); RUSTAN'S(Top Department Store); SAMSUNG(Top Cellular Phone & Television Brand); SMART COMMUNICATIONS(Top Cellular Service Provider); SUNKIST(Top Juice Brand); SUNMAID(Top Raisins Brand); SUNSILK(Top Shampoo Brand); TIBAYAN·FINANCIAL GROUP(Top Holdings Company); TOBY'S SPORTS CENTER(Top Sports Shop); TOTALGAZ(Top LPG Brand); WALKER(Top Men's Undergarment); YOKOHAMA TIRES(Top Tire Brand); and ZONROX(Top Bleach Brand):

A year-round nomination for Outstanding Consumer Products & Companies are accepted at the NATIONAL CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOUNDATION (NCAF) at Unit 301, 3/F Reyes Bldg., 916 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines. Tels. 421-7422 or 23; 422-4776; 422-5099; 0920-5039590. WEBSITE: mediapower.tripod.com.; E-MAIL: consumersquality@yahoo.com.

Chaired by civic leader-special events specialist Jonathan Navea and noted businessman and civic leader Gov. Justo M. Ortiz, top consumer products & companies were selected based on open public nomination and random consumer surveys and polls. Award evaluation percentages are: Product Features or Quality – 35%; Contribution to Public Service – 20; Public Opinion & Surveys – 25%; Pricing – 20% or a total of 100%. Hosts of the event were broadcaster Jerry Go with Emiline Cruz and Donna Louie Thompson.

Annual proceeds of the project are earmarked to the NCAF Youth Scholarship & Livelihood Program and the year-round product research and surveys, as well as related consumer services.

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'Scientific' farming can be very profitable

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAUANG, La Union—Combine a farmer, a teacher and an environmentalist and you get a *magsasakang siyentipiko* (farmer-scientist). Add business acumen, and you have a prosperous farmer.

Rogelio Ramos of Urayong in Bauang, La Union, is one such man.

A hands-on farmer, he is a sight straight out of a storybook. Sunbrowned skin peering out of a faded long-sleeved shirt caked with mud and a pair of loose, worn out slacks clasped together by a wide leather belt into which was tucked a farmer's tool.

With a warm smile, he led us into his home, not a bahay-kubo but a two-story wood and concrete structure. The living room was modestly but carefully appointed and its spotless tiled floor gleamed against our bare feet as we came in.

Ramos is by now used to being interviewed. He has been featured in an agricultural TV show and some magazines because he is no ordinary farmer.

He has received the Gawad Saka for being an outstanding farmer adopting the integrated farming system (high-value commercial crop-based) from the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council in 2000 and in 2001.

For 2002, he received a special citation as a partner of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) for research and development through the integrated farming system and was accorded the title "Magsasakang Siyentista" of Region I, one of two in the province.

By choice not an office man, he stores his plaques on an open shelf in a wooden shed that functions as office, eating and lecture area. As such, many documents have been lost here, including his irreplaceable guest books and scrapbooks that document his long experience of tilling the earth.

Farming family

Ramos came from a farming family in Bangui, Ilocos Norte. Through hard work, he was able to go to college at the DMMMSU and finished a BS Fisheries degree with 21 units in education. This was where he met his wife, Maricor, who is also a B.S. Fisheries graduate.

He became a public high school

SCIENTIFIC/ C3

PHOTO BY GIA DAMASO-DUMO

RAMOS' children started helping out on the farm at a young age. Mar Levi, 9, expertly pulls out weeds from plots of patola.

Fashion firm puts best foot forward in shoe business

By Marge C. Enriquez

GUESS what?

Guess, the brand known for casual clothes and sensual advertising images, is trying to get its foothold in the local footwear business. Its initial foray is Guess Sport.

Miltos Goudamis, international sales and marketing manager of Pacific Design Marketing Inc, the distributor of Guess Sport, explains that the traditional tennis shoe has evolved into a fashion item, what with the infusion of vivid colors and non-traditional materials.

The antiseptic white sneaker, made primarily for walking, was branded as Guess Athletic.

"We are a fashion—not a technical—company," clarifies Goudamis.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Over the years, the sneaker has adapted the fabrics and silhouettes of the fashion shoe. Guess Athletic eventually evolved into Guess Sport.

Designer shoes

Its signature suede sneaker with glitters and its bold "G" logo on the side and Evia platform has been copied by other brands. Goudamis explains that even fashion houses such as Prada and Byblos have produced designer sport shoes. "It's a big thing everywhere," he says.

Victor Siasat has handled the Guess apparel over the past 12 years. However, managing the footwear category is an entirely different operation. Planet Sports Inc. is the exclusive distributor of Guess Footwear and Guess Sport.

Only two months in the market and with no advertising, sales of Guess Sports have been brisk at the Planet Sports stores and the Guess boutiques. Among the salable styles are the wedge platform sneaker and the denim rubber shoe.

Frenchman Sid Gouni, creator of the first stiletto athletic shoe in 1998, designed the styles.

Shoe fetish

This February, Guess Sport will carry rubber- and plastic-soled thongs for the beach, slip-ons, velcro-strapped shoes and perforated lace-ups for children and pearlized sneakers for women. The male sport shoe veers toward the classic leather sneaker.

Why is there a sudden fetish for the sports shoe when it isn't even used for performance?

Alain Malka, manager-director for Guess Footwear, makes the analogy.

"In the US there's an immense amount of SUVs. Some 90 percent don't go off road. Today, every woman who has a husband with good income would want the X5, the Lexus 370 or the ML. She's going to the grocery not to the sand dunes. And, there's not one single pothole in Los Angeles. But why SUV when she can buy a station wagon? When I say 'wagon,' Ugh! SUV? It's the mode. It's like people wear sneakers, but they are not going running. It's fashion."

Guess' shoes are made in China with Euro-

FASHION/ C3

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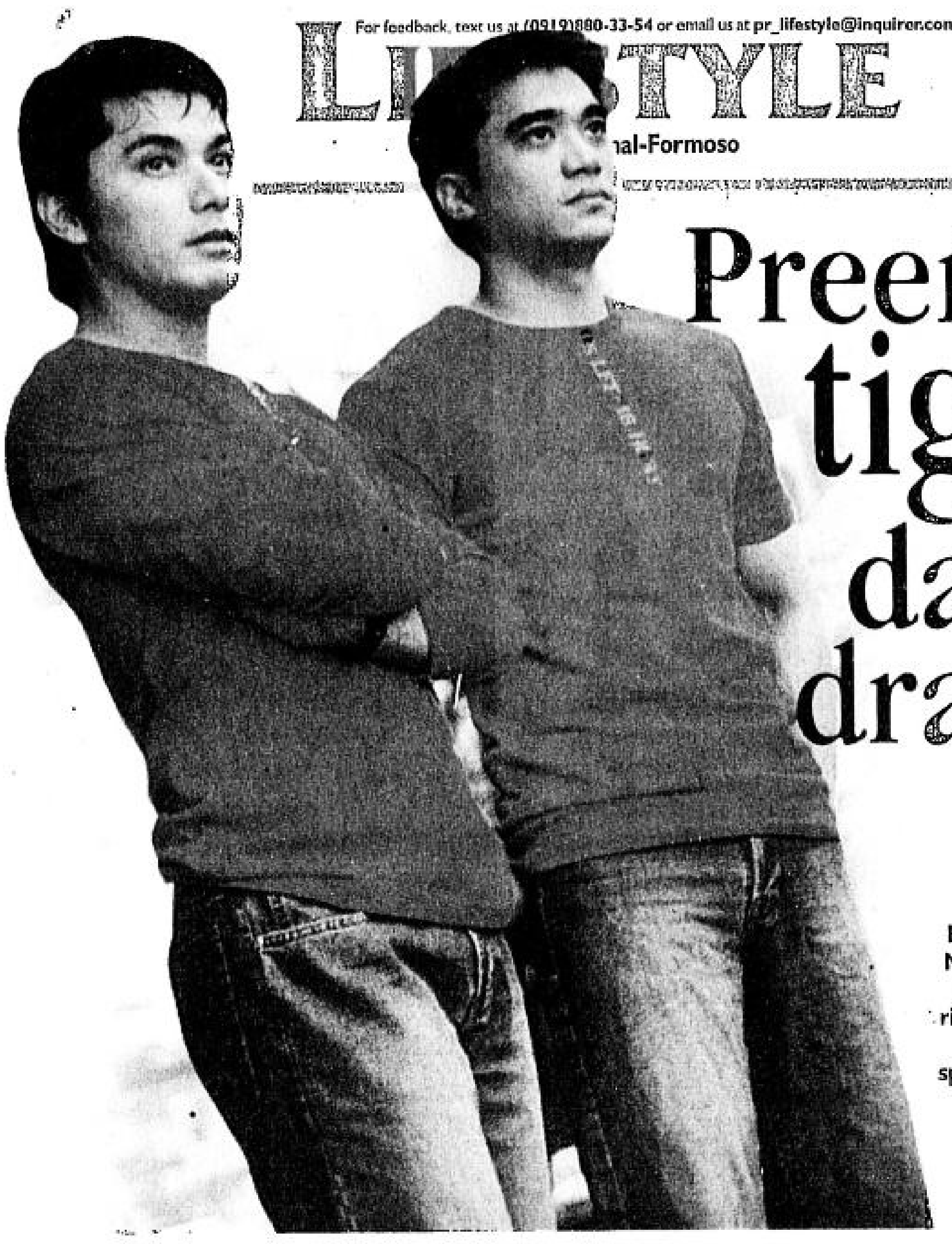

Preening tiger, dandy dragon

BLOOD BROTHERS. Albert Martinez and Victor Neri shed off their rich men's robes and go sporty in red sports tees and jeans by Human.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Krusty Galsim

EVEN with their eyes closed, seasoned actors Albert Martinez and Victor Neri can breeze through their roles as rival brothers in the top-rating soap opera "Habang Kapiling Ka." Yet the two have managed to find a certain sense of fulfillment in giving life to a pair of cardboard characters.

"Some people can't seem to distinguish me from my character," says Albert, "and I'm flattered." He plays the clan's scheming and incorrigible patriarch, Alejandro Javellana, a cross between JR of "Dallas" and the bad guy in the "Count of Monte Cristo."

The former Regal "baby," who still looks boyish at 41, was once relaxing by the swimming pool of a five-star hotel with his family when a woman suddenly came out of nowhere and cautioned her children from getting an inch near him. "Stay away from Alejandro," shouted the mother, unmindful of Albert presence. "He's a bad person!"

"Instead of feeling bad, I was amused by it. At least, people find my performance believable," says Albert with a chuckle. "Some soap fans are like the character of Renee Zelwegger in 'Nurse Betty.' They get too attached to the characters they see on TV."

After that real-life episode, Albert officially joined the ranks of former TV villains Princess Punzalan and Mylene Dizon. He still considers himself lucky. So far, no disgusted fan has attempted to physically harm or humiliate him in public. A stranger, for instance, once chased Princess in a mall and tried to pull her hair. Mylene got booed during a provincial show as she made her way on stage.

"No," he says with a chuckle. "I have yet to receive death threats."

Gaining fans

Victor, 25, has been experiencing the opposite. Despite his oozing sex appeal, the brooding actor used to come across as a snob. After playing the quiet and naïve Julius Javellana, however, fans have now warmed up to him.

"They no longer find me grouchy," says Victor, who was lured into show biz almost a decade ago as one of the teen talents of "Ang TV." He first earned critics' attention a few years later as the younger brother of Cesar Montano in the film "Utol."

"People now smile and say hi to me wherever I go," he added. "What a refreshing change."

Such role reversals are common in the convoluted yet predictable world of soap operas. Yet playing one-dimensional characters can get quite frustrating. But with the current slump in the movies, the two actors aren't complaining. Nor are they blaming people behind the GMA-produced show, especially their director.

"Doing a soap is like holding a 9 to 5 job," says Albert. "Since we signed a contract, we will still get paid even if the network decides to kill the character. Unlike in the movies, playing a character in a soap requires very little preparation."

The role of Alejandro, adds Albert, requires him to go "over the top." He arrives on the set fully aware that as the show's resident Mr. Evil, the writer and the director will allow him little room to come up with a nuanced portrayal. Thus, he's no longer surprised with the outcome of his performance.

"The problem is I'm a 'thinking' actor," says Albert. "I used to try to analyze everything the character does and his motivations for doing it. I've long stopped being critical since I started playing Alejandro. I'd go crazy if I continue to do that."

PREENING/ D4

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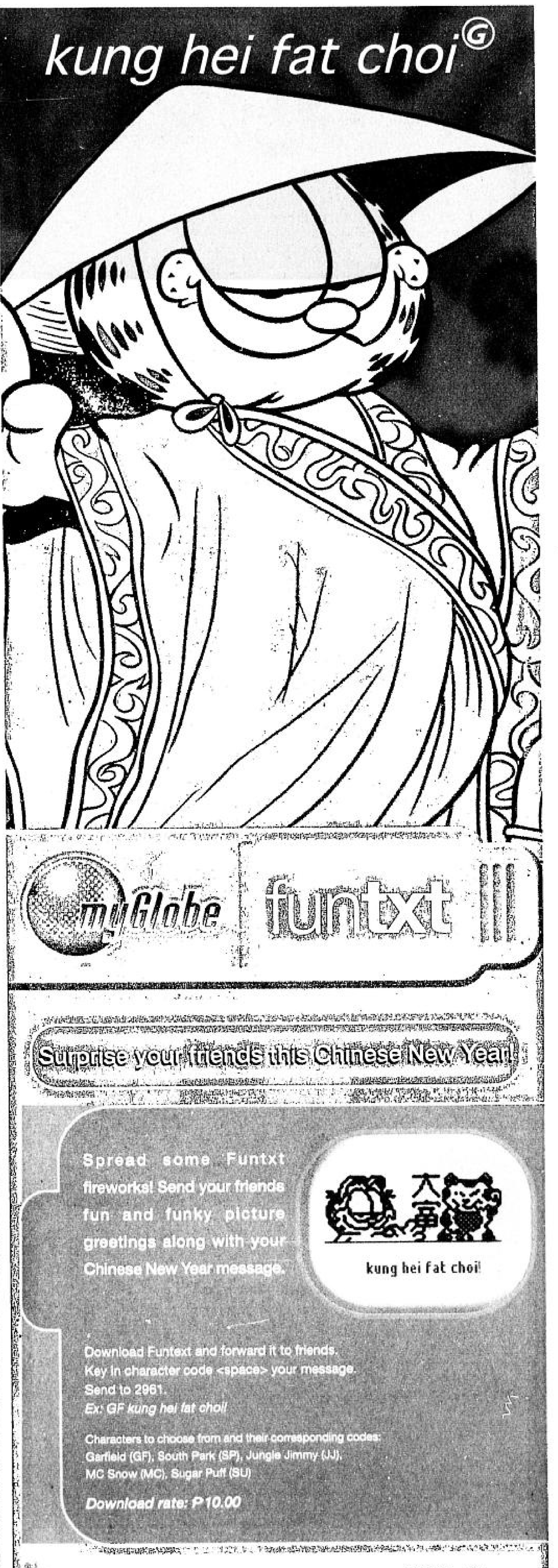

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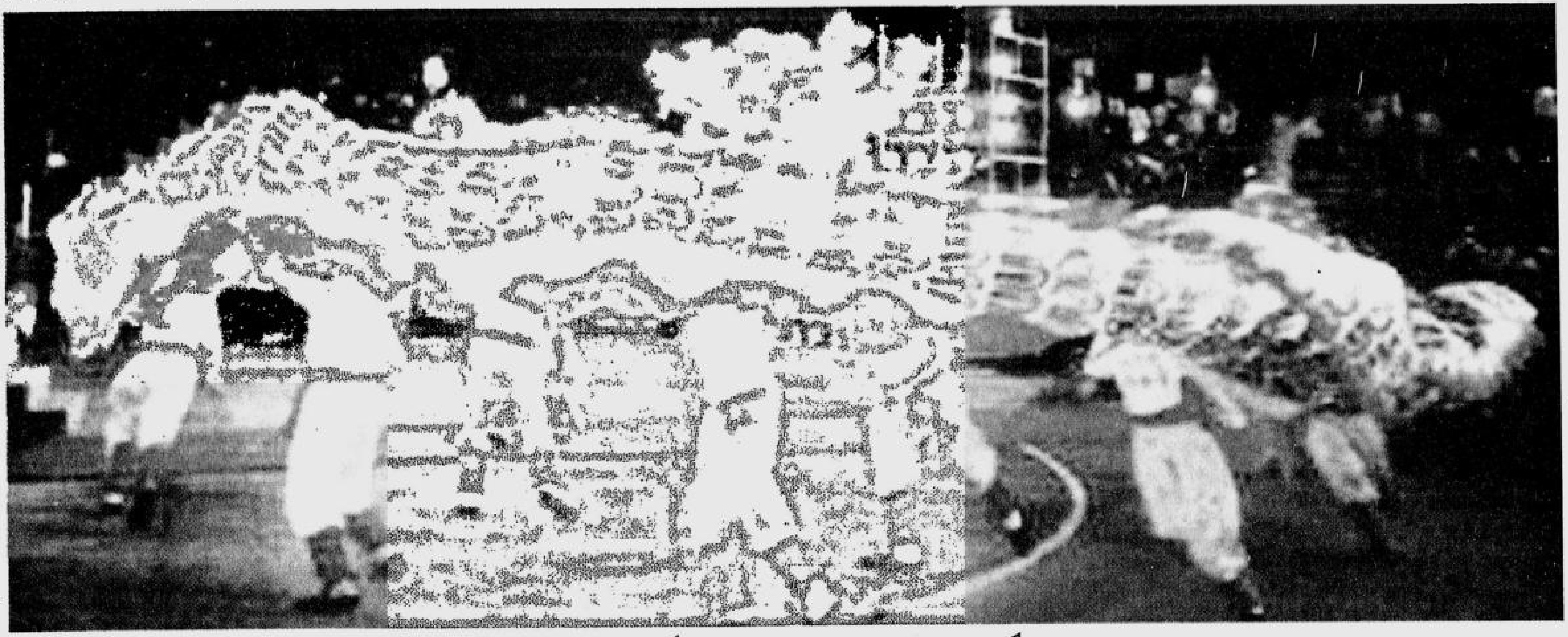
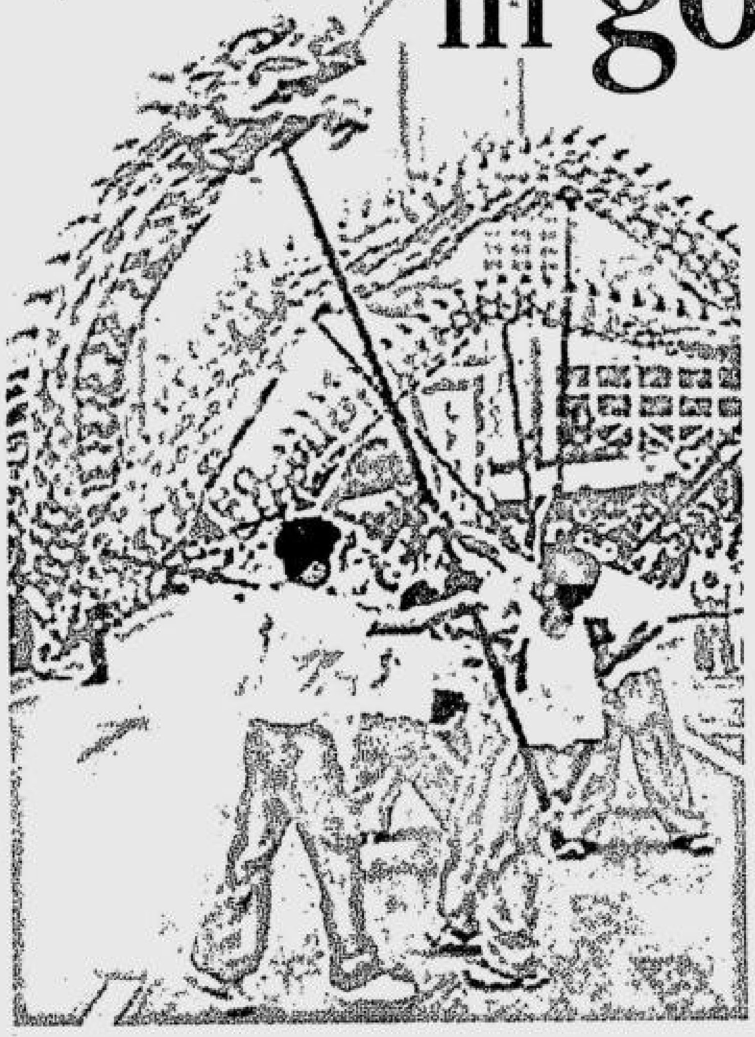


Dragon dance ushers in good luck



THE COLORFUL dragon dance is one of the most flamboyant and exciting Chinese traditions often associated with Lunar New Year celebrations.

During Chinese New Year, the dragon dance is performed to drive away old misfortunes and usher in good luck for the coming year. Many of Hong Kong's shopping centers and community groups organize a dragon dance to highlight their Chinese New Year celebrations.

The symbolic dragon can be made in different ways. A dragon made in sections, which holds a red candle, is known as the Fire Dragon, while a dragon made from multicolored cloth is called a Colorful Dragon.

Regardless of which type of dragon, it is held aloft by a group of performers who, with artistically choreographed maneuvers, make it appear as if it is flying. As the dragon bends and twists its way through a series of loops, musicians banging drums, cymbals and gongs accompany the performance.

Many of the traditional dances have names such as "Tail-spinning," "Moon Chase," "Leap of Gold" and "A Ride on Clouds," which call for the performers of having acrobatic or martial arts skills to master the arduous waving and sudden performers of having acrobatic or martial arts changes of direction performed at speed.

The origins of the Dragon Dance can be traced back to the Han Dynasty (BC 206-220 AD), when it was known as "Raising the Dragon Lamp" or "Dragon Lantern Dance," an ancient practice performed to request blessings from ancestors and divine beings.

By the time of the Tang Dynasty (AD 960-1279) dragon dancing had developed into an intricate art form and was closely linked to the Lunar New Year celebrations.

There are many legends about dragons and how the dragon dance came to exist. According to one Chinese legend, dragon dancing was inspired by a visit from a heavenly emperor.

The emperor descended to earth seeking a cure for his lower back pain and had his discomfort relived by a doctor, who cast out a centipede that had taken up residency inside his body. The celestial emperor was so pleased with his new pain-free existence that he blessed his mortal subjects with rain and a bountiful harvest whenever they offered him a dance that mimicked a centipede's movements. These dragon dances are performed to celebrate a variety of festivals and none more important than Lunar New Year when the dance signifies renewal, family reunion and the joy of the occasion.

Dragon dances take place all over Hong Kong to mark the auspicious occasion. The visual spectacle adds excitement to the array of dazzling New Year lights, bustling flower and produce markets, parades and carnivals.

The perfect occasion to view the spectacular dance is during the Chinese New Year Parade held by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), which is difficult to miss due to the unmistakable fanfare of gongs and cymbals, which accompany the dance.

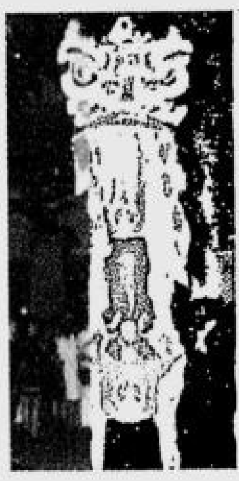
The dragon dance is also a feature of other major festivals. Every Mid-Autumn Festival, Tai Hang Village in Causeway Bay reverberates to the sound of drums and gongs as the area hosts a three-day Fire Dragon Dance Festival, featuring a 200-ft fire dragon decorated with incense to signify longevity. As it wends its way through the neighborhood, it delivers blessings and the wish for good health to each family.

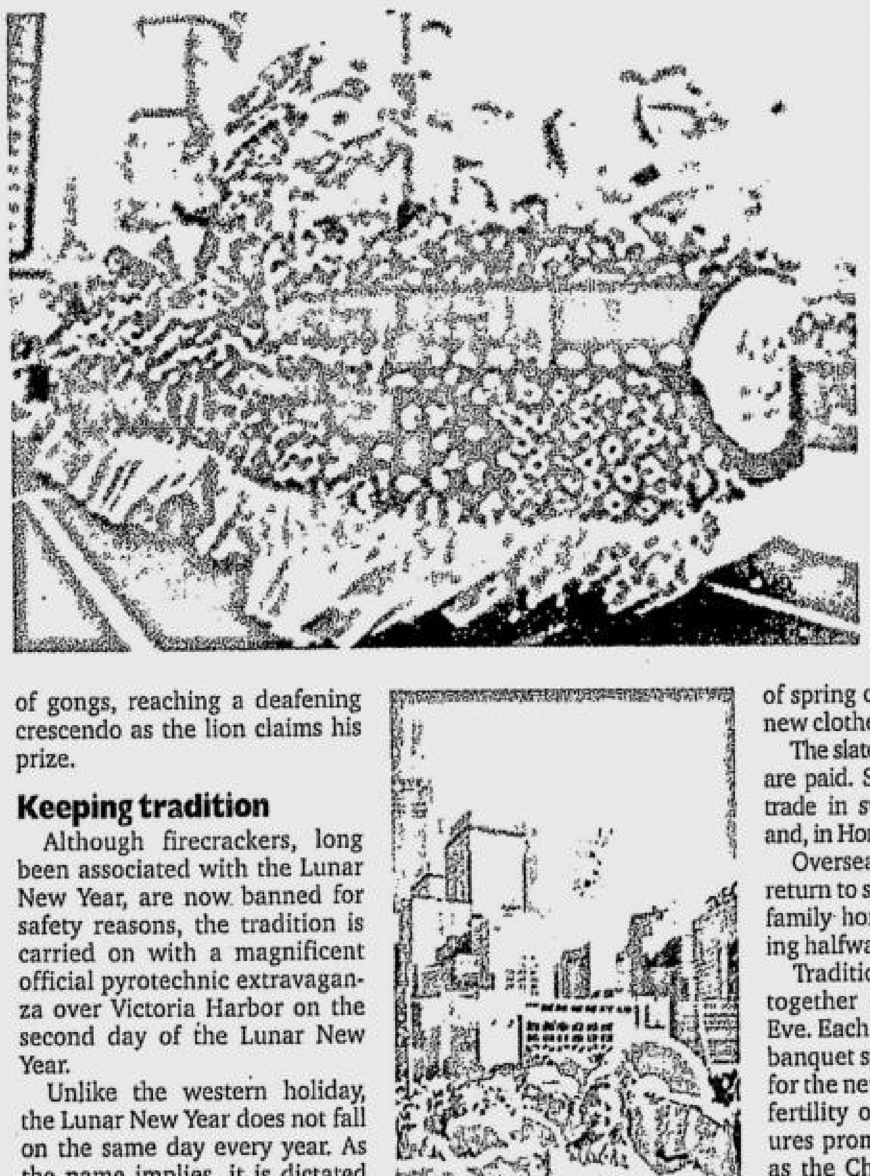
The dragon can also be spotted at grand openings of hotels, restaurants and supermarkets, where the dance is performed to inspire robust business and prosperity.

Many schools have incorporated the dragon dance into their education systems as an extracurricular activity. As the dance embraces elements of Chinese martial arts, participation provides physical discipline, teamwork, confidence, and helps to boost morale.

Whether performed as a spectacular attraction at festivals or respected as an outstanding example of cultural heritage, the dragon dance offers inspiration and encouragement to the people of Hong Kong, especially in times of hardship and uncertainty.

Chinese New Year
is a 15-day event





The list of words and activities attached to the Lunar New Year is endless

KUNG hei fat choy—"Wishing you success and prosperity!"

No visitor to Hong Kong during the Lunar New Year would fail to hear this traditional greeting, which often accompanies the giving of *lai see*, red paper envelopes gold-stamped with good-luck mottos and containing crisp, new paper money.

Before, when coins had holes in the middle, the gift consisted of lengths of coins tied with red ribbon. These days, Hong Kong banks put their new notes into circulation at this time of year.

Flowers also play a major role in the Lunar New Year tradition. No home, hotel, office or bank is without a spray of peach blossoms.

Narcissi, peonies and pussywillow also symbolize good luck and prosperity, as does the miniature orange or *kumquat* plant with its gold-colored fruit and a name that sounds like the Chinese word for gold.

The lion dance, a colorful, noisy and athletic display, aims to drive away evil spirits and bring good luck. Most hotels have the lion dance performed in the lobby, while, in traditional villages, troupes move from house to house.

Every so often, the "lion" performs a heart-stopping balancing act to reach a *chai-ching*, a bunch of lettuce leaves and a *tat see* packet suspended from a high balcony or a long bamboo pole. The strange tradition derives from the fact that the Chinese words for lettuce sound like "growth" and "wealthy."

The drama is heightened by the insistent pounding of drums, clashing of cymbals and beating of gongs, reaching a deafening crescendo as the lion claims his prize.

Keeping tradition

Although firecrackers, long been associated with the Lunar New Year, are now banned for safety reasons, the tradition is carried on with a magnificent official pyrotechnic extravaganza over Victoria Harbor on the second day of the Lunar New Year.

Unlike the western holiday, the Lunar New Year does not fall on the same day every year. As the name implies, it is dictated by the moon and begins on the first day of the first moon after the sun enters Aquarius between Jan. 21 and Feb. 19.

The Lunar New Year is a time for making a fresh start and to welcome the spring. Weeks before the festival, there is a frenzy of spring cleaning and buying of new clothes.

The slate is wiped clean as debts are paid. Stores do a tremendous trade in sweets, nuts, chocolates and, in Hong Kong, cognac.

Overseas sons and daughters return to spend the festival in the family home, some even traveling halfway around the world.

Traditionally, families dine together on Lunar New Year's Eve. Each dish in the sumptuous banquet symbolizes some desire for the new year, such as wealth, fertility or good luck. Fish figures prominently on the menu, as the Chinese word for it, *yu*, sounds like the word for abundance.

Long life

The whole family, including the youngest members, will stay up past midnight to welcome the New Year together. It is believed that children who stay up to greet the New Year will be blessed with a long life.

In some families, the children get a *lai see* from their elders on this night; in others, they must wait for morning.

Certain rules govern the giving of *lai see*. The elder gives to the younger, the married to the unmarried. A boss often gives *lai see* to all his/her employees, regardless of age and marital status. It is considered discourteous to open the *lai see* in the giver's presence.

Throughout the rituals, ancestors are remembered and play a leading role in the proceedings. Family altars are adorned with ancestor tablets and scrolls going back five generations.

Ancestors are offered food and drink every day until the 16th day of the Lunar New Year, when they are believed to leave the house once more. They are accompanied on their return from the spirit world by household gods, who must share the feast.

Avoiding arguments

Each day of the season carries its own traditions. On the first day, the family stays home together, although they may also watch the Chinese New Year Parade.

Families visit friends and distant relatives on the second day. Great significance is attached to the first person seen after leaving home. Women and priests are deemed to be unlucky!

It is deemed prudent to stay home on the the third day, Chak Hau, Quarrel Day, as one is most likely to get into arguments.

The list of words and activities attached to the Lunar New Year is endless. It is, for instance, considered unlucky to argue or to scold servants. Gambling after taking a bath would invite bad luck. So will threading a needle on the seventh and eighth days of the new moon.

Each of the first 10 days of the Lunar New Year is dedicated to someone or something. The first day is for chickens, the second for dogs, the third for pigs, the fourth for goats, the fifth for cattle, and the sixth for horses. No animal can be slaughtered on its day.

The seventh day is dedicated to human and is known as "Everybody's Birthday" (traditionally, criminals were reprieved and executions suspended). The eighth day is dedicated to rice and other grains; the ninth is Heaven's Day; and the 10th is Earth's Day.

The weather on the seventh day is believed to indicate events for the year ahead, although interpretations of the portents appear to differ from rural to urban areas. City folk believe a fine clear day indicates a peaceful year, but country dwellers see it as an omen of famine.

The Lunar New Year celebrations end on the 15th day of the New Year with the Yuen Siu, or Spring Lantern Festival. A Taoist tradition, Yuen Siu is believed to be the day when the Lord Heaven visits Earth to check on humans. Exhibitions of brightly colored lanterns are held in public places and Taoist temples.

China is one big temple of culture

By Constantino C. Tejero

PRACTICALLY the whole of China is a cultural heritage site.

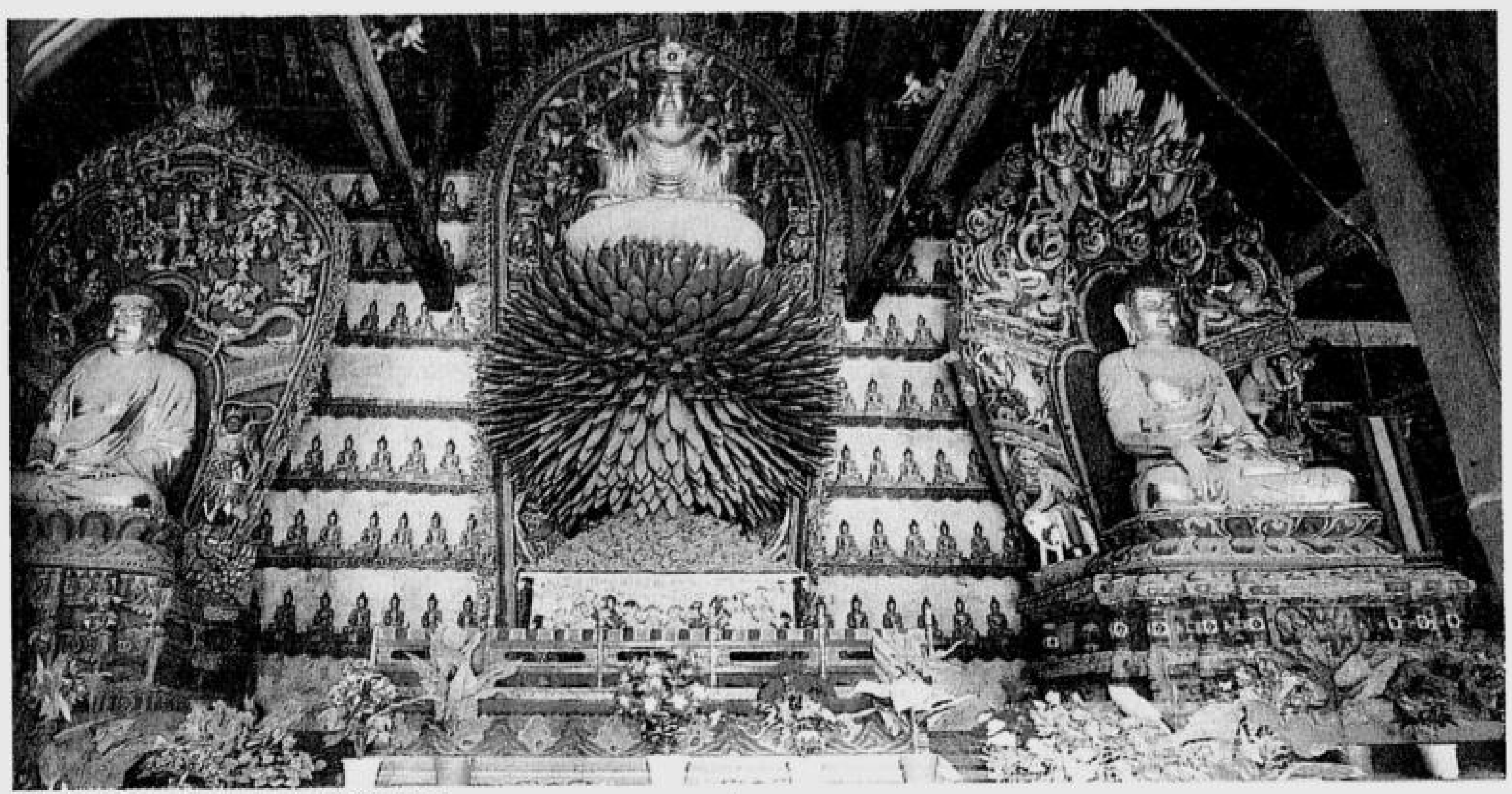
To immerse in its ancient culture and witness some of the world's most wondrous architecture, statuaries and artifacts dating back to thousands of years, one has only to wend one's way through any of the palaces, gardens, pavilions, grottoes and temples.

Representatives of this ancient culture are the Forbidden City, of course, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, the Potala Palace, the Pagoda of Six Harmonies, the Yuyuan Garden, the Temple of the Soul's Retreat, the Six Banyan Pagoda, the Garden to Linger In, the Temple of the White Horse, The Humble Administrator's Garden, the House of Mist and Rain.

When we visited northeastern China recently, among the sites on our itinerary we clung to, no matter the travails we had to go through to get there, were the temples. We believed going to one was already halfway to understanding the culture.

A Chinese temple, by the way, refers to not just one hulking edifice but often a whole complex of structures, ancient trees, gardens, rock formation, pagodas, pavilions, gateways, halls, monoliths and a main building, the place sometimes extending to a few hectares.

Shandong Province is scattered with temples, ranging from Buddhist to Taoist to Confucian. But given the time constraint, our guides chose for us only the three most important.



ENTRANCE to the Hall of 1,000 Buddhas

Major relics

In a district of the city of Jinan, capital of Shandong, lies the Temple of the 1,000 Buddhas, also known as the Lingyan Temple. This is considered first of China's four great Buddhist temples.

The way to the main edifice is rocky, amid soaring massive gingkos and cypresses thousands of years old, their trunks wound with ribbons of red cloth by pilgrims, their branches stirring with chattering magpies.

In the Thousand-Buddha Hall, fronting the entrance are three large golden statues of Buddha, the central image sitting on a chrysanthemum.

Lined by the walls, sitting, squatting or standing, are the famous life-size, polychrome clay statues of the 40 Arhats, the blessed disciples of Buddha, in various gestures of discussion. These Soong Dynasty statues are major cultural relics of China.

Just above them, on seven shelves running along three walls of the hall, are the thousand smaller gilded images of the serene sitting Buddha, from which the place derived its name.

A path leads down from the edifice to the Forest of Stupa's, the cemetery of the monks. Another path going upward leads to the slender Pizhi Pagoda.

In the outskirts of the city of Tai'an, on top of Mt. Taishan, is an incredible sight. Considered first of China's five sacred mountains, it draws five million visitors a year.

In olden times, pilgrims, including the emperor, would take several days to climb its peak. After a path had been carved on the side, travel time was reduced to seven hours, by climbing up some 7,000 stone steps. Today you reach the peak in 10 minutes or so by cable car.

What awaited us was totally unexpected. We wended through some boulders and rock faces and came upon a whole village, with a trading center, shops and eateries, and a four-star hotel—it was as if we had found Shangri-La.

On the peak is the Temple of the Azure Cloud Goddess, a Taoist shrine. It is guarded by long-haired, black-robed monks, who sell tiny brass bells and jade lucky charms to pilgrims and tourists.

Original structures

In the county of Qufu is the Temple of Confucius, a wide expanse of garden, forest, several gates, several pavilions, monolithic mythical figures carved from granite, and the Hall of Great Accomplishments.

A Chinese temple is not just one edifice but a whole complex sometimes extending to a few hectares

As we stood there, we could hardly believe we were in the hometown of Confucius. It felt weird to be actually standing on the same spot where once trod the feet of "divinity."

In the next county is the Temple of Mencius.

Needless to say, the architectural designs of these temples are graceful and quite elaborate. Whole pillars, for example, have carvings of dragon forms, and whole walls embellished with relief illustrating the life of Buddha.

Most of the structures are still in their original stones and wood. The pillars are of ancient cypress, juniper, pine or red sandalwood, plastered with a mixture of sand, porridge water, millet flour, animal blood. And they have withstood the test of time.

That is, until the Cultural Revolution. The 10-year rampage took its toll on this ancient civilization. Countless ceramic pieces and stone steles were shattered. Fearful, the monks hid the most precious objects, the most sacred relics. What time could not erode, human destructiveness corroded.

It is said many of the rampaging youths of the Cultural Revolution now regret what they had done. But then, what is broken cannot be unbroken. Tourists now may be seeing only replicas, as the originals have been kept forever from the human eye.

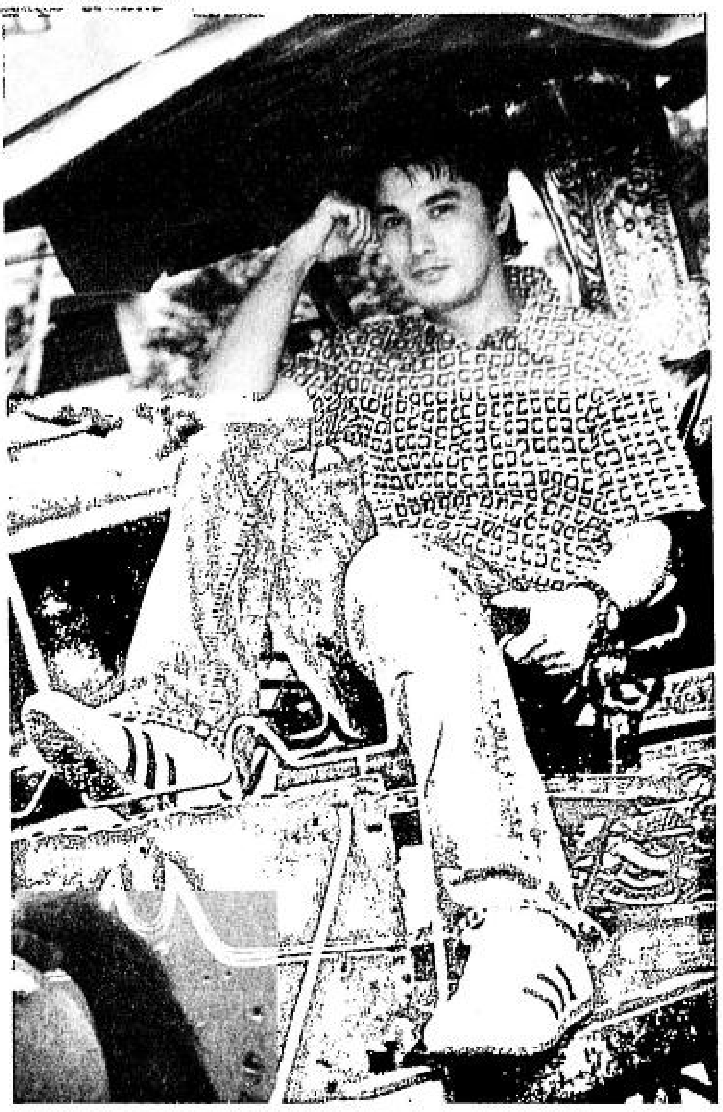
20oh3
Sale!

We're giving you
ultra-fabulous discounts
to greet the new year!
Jan. 17 to Feb. 2

Makati 813-3739 • Shangri-La Plaza 633-4636 to 39 • Alabang 850-5532-61 to 84 • Harrison Plaza 521-1140 to 49 • Cubao 911-2401 • Cebu 032-231-5641
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0055, Series of 2003.
Rustan's

MANILA BOY. Rugged Victor Neri by a *calesa*, a long-time fixture in Chinatown; basic shirt and jeans by Human, Adidas Samba shoes

Albert Martinez and Victor Neri relieve the torpor of playing stock characters on prime-time soap opera by style raids in Chinatown

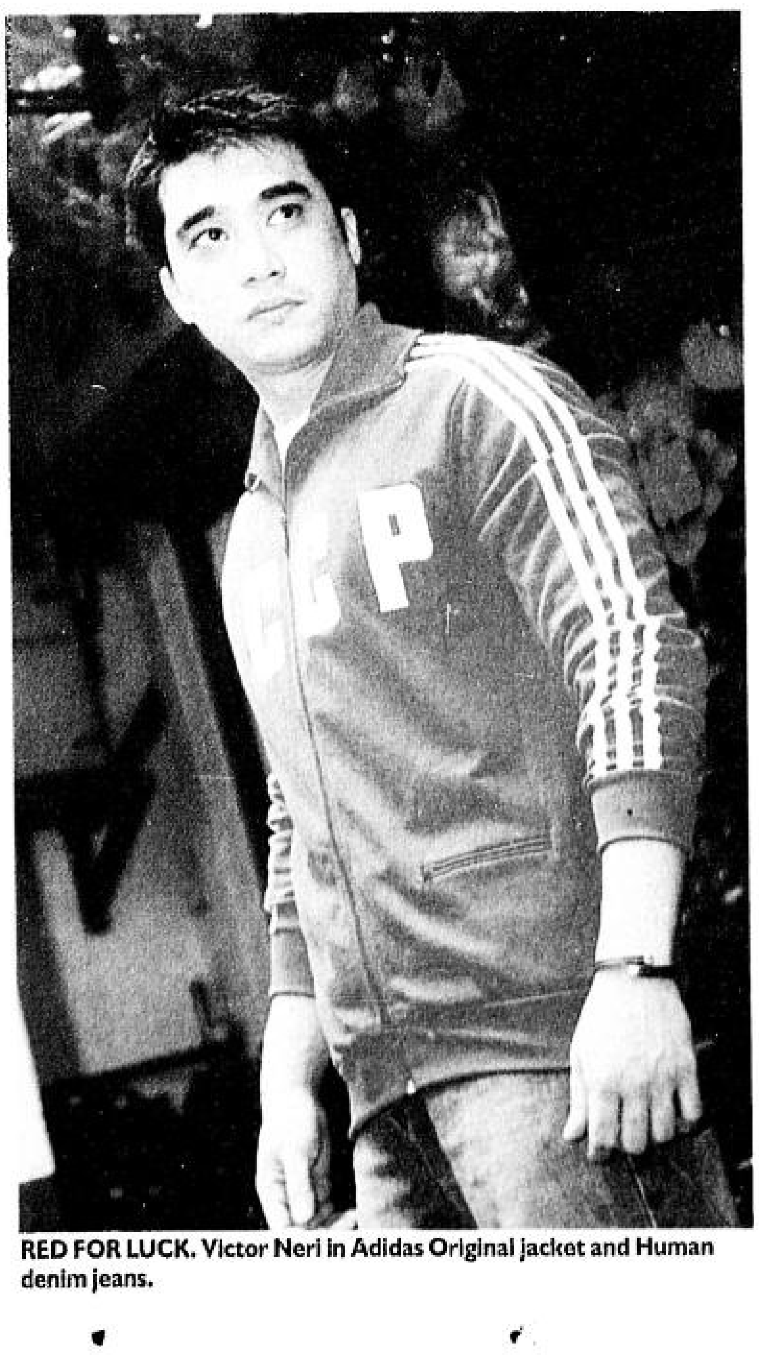


WHERE TO? Ageless Albert Martinez rides in style; printed shirt and jeans by Human; Adidas Original shoes.

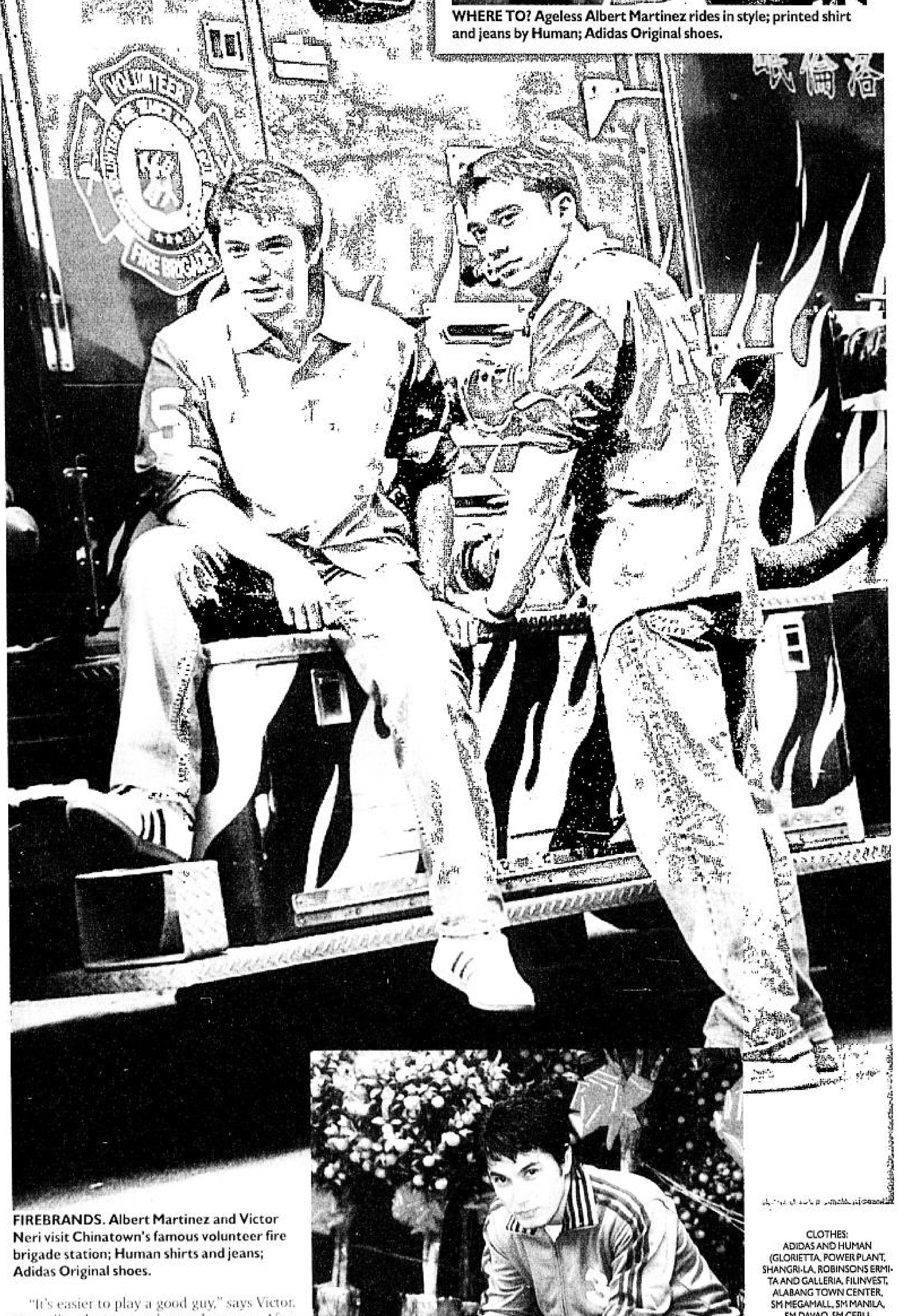
Preening tiger, dandy dragon

From page D1

Victor finds his character, a modern-day version of Abel, too good to be true. Despite the daily dose of verbal abuse he gets from Alejandro, Julius always manages to rein in his temper. The brothers have yet to trade punches.



RED FOR LUCK. Victor Neri in Adidas Original jacket and Human denim jeans.



FIREBRANDS. Albert Martinez and Victor Neri visit Chinatown's famous volunteer fire brigade station; Human shirts and jeans; Adidas Original shoes.

"It's easier to play a good guy," says Victor. "Actually, playing good guys bore me. After playing offbeat roles for years, it took me quite sometime to get used to [playing] Julius. I guess the challenge lies in making him more human."

Like many of their colleagues who've made the big switch from movies to TV, the two take comfort in the fact that their current show provides them steady income as well as much-needed exposure.

"The pay's good," says Albert with a grin. "I'd probably just give vent to my frustration by accepting good movie assignments in the future at a fraction of my talent fee."

One such film he's proud to be part of is Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Magnifico." The film, which tackles everyday lives of ordinary people through the eyes of a boy, also stars Lorna Tolentino and is showing in Metro Manila.

PREENING/ D5

FEELING RICH AND FAMOUS. Albert Martinez surrounded by Chinese prosperity trees in Adidas Colors jacket, Human denims and Addidas Spezial shoes.

CLOTHES:
ADIDAS AND HUMAN
(GLORIETTA, POWER PLANT,
SHANGRI-LA, ROBINSONS ERMITA AND GALLERIA, FILINVEST,
ALABANG TOWN CENTER,
SM MEGAMALL, SM MANILA,
SM DAVAO, SM CEBU,
SM BACOOR,
SM PAMPANGA)

LOCATION:
MANILA CHINATOWN

Preening...

From page D4

"The film's title sounds like Italian and it feels like Italian," he boasts.

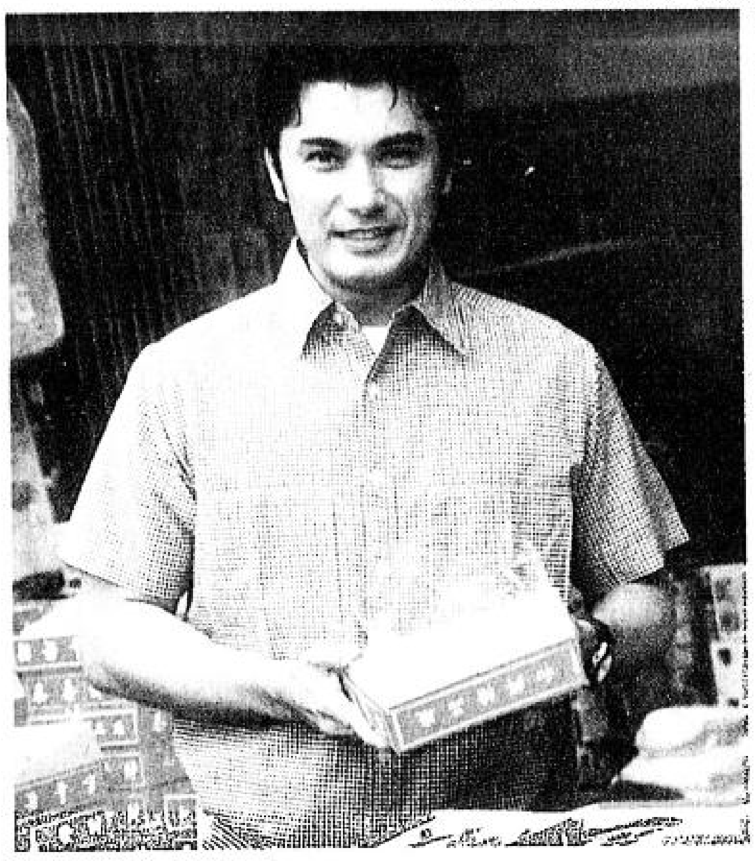
Lately, Albert has been trying his hand at directing. He works behind the camera once a week to put together an episode of "Pirapirasong Pangarap," another daily soap produced by GMA.

When not acting, Victor sings and plays the guitar as a band member of Even Star. He also tries to spend quality time with his two-year old son Vitto.

"I can't say for sure if this will be the last soap I'll be doing," says Victor, who appeared in a defunct soap opera produced by another channel. "Despite all the limitations that come with the medium, it's really up to us as actors to try to come up with interesting performances."

Like they say, there are no small roles, only small actors. And that maxim applies more so in the muddled realm of the telenovela.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



THINKING ACTOR. Albert Martinez goes preppy as he shops for *tikoy* in a printed sports shirt and jeans by Human.

WHAT'S COOKING? Victor Neri checks out the dimsum in a sports tee and jeans by Human.

Underwear sale

THEY say the type of undergarments you wear reveals something about your personality—whether you're conservative, sensual or fun-loving. Know something about the apparel that seems to know a lot about you, from Robinsons Department Store (RDS), which is holding its Underwear Sale until Feb. 2.

For the best buys, selections from Triumph, Soen, Hanes, Barbizon, Wacoal, Sogo, Satomi, Lovable, Maidenform and Perfect Shape are currently available at special prices at RDS' Underwear Sale. And for every purchase of ladies' intimate apparel, get a free G-string pantyliner from Carefree.

For men, it's either boxers or briefs. If you're for a loose, relaxed fit, then boxers are for you. But if you opt for good support, especially for exercising, then the brief is it. Choose from collections from Walker, Hanford, Warren, Bench, Hanes, Jockey, Puritan, Sunjoy, Carter, YC and more at up to 50 percent discount at RDS.

Visit RDS' Underwear Sale at Robinsons Galleria; Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Sta Rosa, Bacolod and Iloilo; Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis Star Alabang; and Waltermart Sta. Rosa and Gen. Trias.

Ladies' apparel store holds inventory sale

UNICA Hija holds its grand inventory sale until Feb. 10. Avail of up to 70 percent discounts on all clothes every time you visit any Unica Hija store.

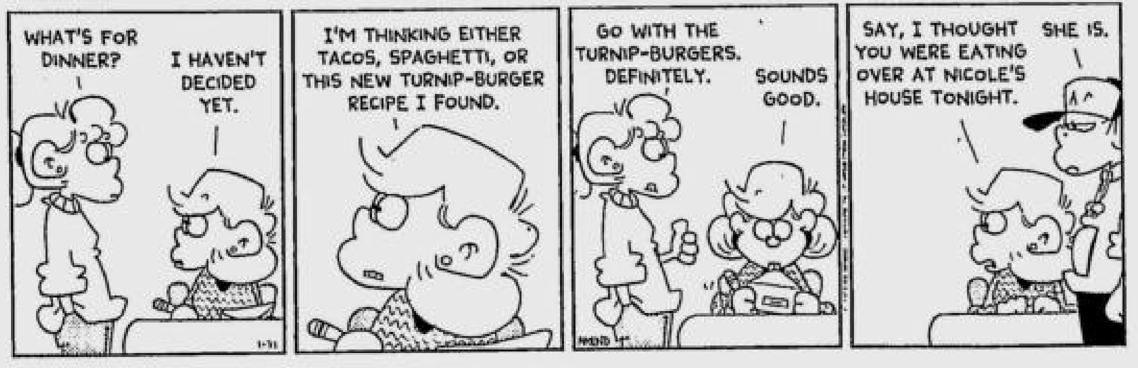
Unica Hija is located at SM City North Edsa, SM City Manila, SM Sucat Supercenter, SM City. Pampanga, Robinsons Galleria Expansion, Robinsons Department Store in Galleria, Robinsons Place Metro East, Sta. Lucia East Grandmall, Festival Supermall in Alabang and Greenbelt Shopping Plaza.

Unica Hija is now open for franchise holders. Call 410-1111, 371-8373, and telefax 413-2464.

TEKKI MUNA!
TEKKI YAKI-UDON
JOHN PRATS
HEART EVANGELISTA
CARLO AQUINO
TEKKI
Yakiudon
CHILI-HOT
TEKKI
Yakiudon
STIR FRY
Magbago ka na!

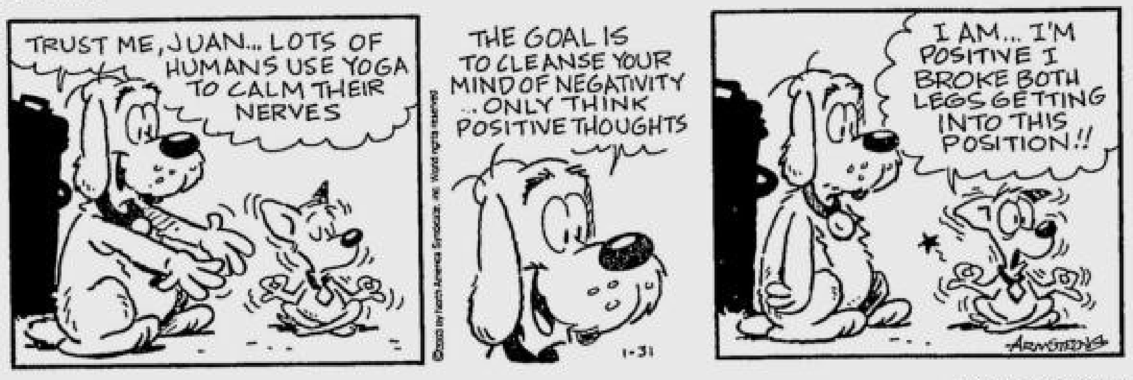
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.
I'M THINKING EITHER TACOS, SPAGHETTI, OR THIS NEW TURNIP-BURGER RECIPE I FOUND.
GO WITH THE TURNIP-BURGERS. DEFINITELY.
SOUNDS GOOD.
SAY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE EATING OVER AT NICOLE'S HOUSE TONIGHT.
SHE IS.

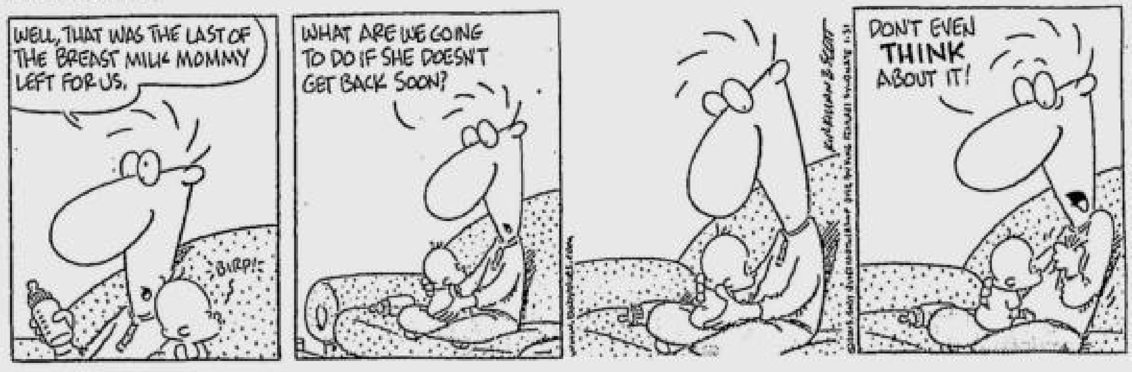
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


TRUST ME, JUAN... LOTS OF HUMANS USE YOGA TO CALM THEIR NERVES
THE GOAL IS TO CLEANSE YOUR MIND OF NEGATIVITY ...ONLY THINK POSITIVE THOUGHTS
I AM... I'M POSITIVE I BROKE BOTH LEGS GETTING INTO THIS POSITION!!
1-31
ARMSTRONG

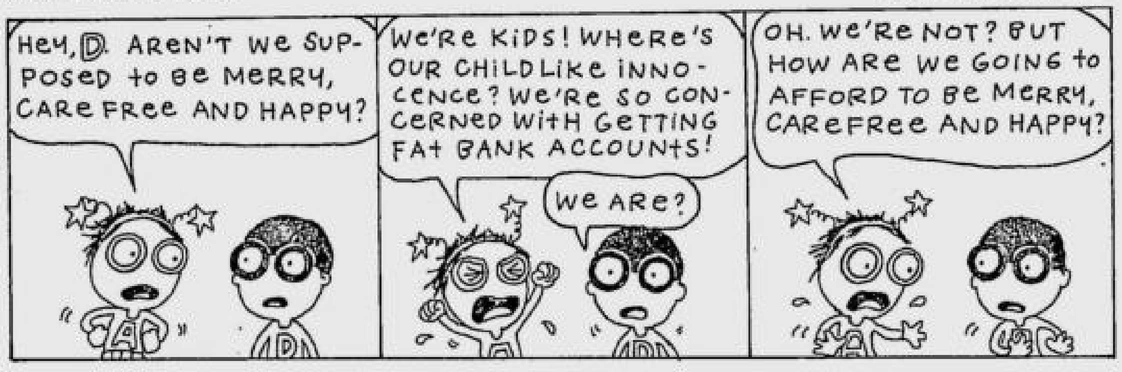
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WELL, THAT WAS THE LAST OF THE BREAST MILK MOMMY LEFT FOR US.
BURP!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO IF SHE DOESN'T GET BACK SOON?
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, D. AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE MERRY, CAREFREE AND HAPPY?
WE'RE KIDS! WHERE'S OUR CHILDLIKE INNOCENCE? WE'RE SO CONCERNED WITH GETTING FAT BANK ACCOUNTS!
WE ARE?
OH. WE'RE NOT? BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO AFFORD TO BE MERRY, CAREFREE AND HAPPY?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Phil Collins, Suzanne Pleshette, Justin Timberlake, Minnie Driver

Happy Birthday: Your ideas will be sound, and you can move forward if you take the initiative. Your generosity coupled with your sincerity will bring you the response you are looking for. Your abilities will manifest themselves through the activities you pursue this year. Your numbers are 6, 16, 28, 33, 42, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will have to count on your charm if you wish to keep the peace, both at work and at home. You will work best by yourself. Consider starting your own small business.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunities for romance are evident. Be cautious not to reveal too much in the beginning. Travel will prove to be exciting.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Minor health problems may flare up if you have been self-abusive or burning the candle at both ends. Take a break. You can finally mend the disputes on the home front.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have the discipline and fortitude to accomplish more than enough to impress your boss. Emotional partnerships may develop through work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Socialize with colleagues. You can gain respect and make deals if you use your quick wit and charm. Make sure you give credit where credit is due.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will see good results if you make some of those physical changes that you've been thinking about. Set up an exercise program; get plenty of rest and nutritious food.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be confused regarding domestic issues. Acceptance will be the key. A little pampering will help soothe your nerves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your ideas for small business ventures will be lucrative if you follow them through to completion. Don't lose steam now. Putting in overtime will also bring you recognition and rewards from superiors.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Unforeseen bills or emergencies have probably caught you off-guard. Cash in one of your hidden assets to cover the expense.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let your partner goad you into telling your deepest secrets. Spend quality time with children. Think about your priorities before making a decision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Misinterpretations will be the outcome if you are evasive about your intentions. Try to communicate with clarity. Be considerate of the feelings of others and don't overspend on others just to impress.

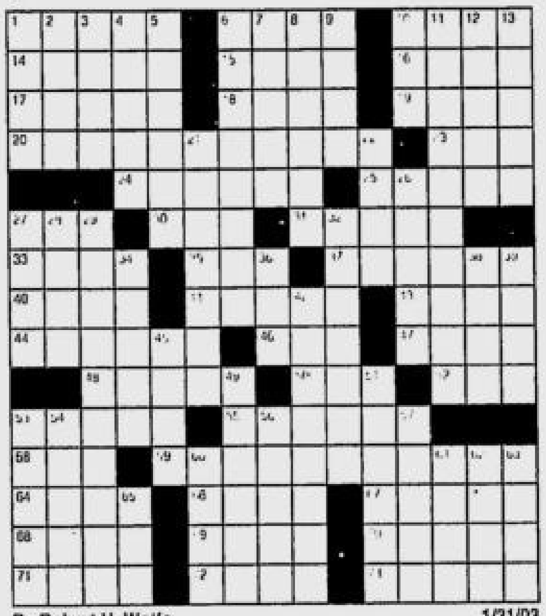
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Spend the day helping organizations that have a worthwhile cause. You could find yourself inspired to evolve dynamic, new plans to assist the group.

Birthday Baby: You will always have your plans well laid out and your strategy in place. You will be generous but only to those worthy of your help. You will have strong values and will stick to your beliefs regardless of opposition.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Secret viewers
6 Sonic __
10 Eve's mate
14 Market value
15 French cleric
16 Pakistani language
17 Hi, Don Ho
18 Price
19 Tie tie
20 Honored otologist?
23 Mineral matter
24 Emphasis
25 Caravan stopovers
27 Alas in Aachen
30 Actor Mineo
31 Froth
33 Bread unit
35 Hay storage
37 Hot sandwich on rye
40 Ludwig or Jannings
41 Writing style
43 Stiff hair
44 Purplish red
46 Sheep-ette
47 Guessed figs.
48 Is winning
50 Docs org.
52 Make lace
53 Highland child
55 Make it big
58 Org. of Sampras, etc.
59 Start of an optometrist's cheer?
64 Deeply absorbed
66 Business transaction
67 Lazybones
68 Engendered
69 Petri dish medium
70 Loafs about
71 Caesar and Vicious
72 Largo and Longboat
73 Used a broom

DOWN
1 Used the pool
2 Actress Negri
3 Fe
4 Distinguishing attitudes of a people
5 Mine excavations
6 Unmarried one
7 Woodwinds
8 Preoccupy
9 Physical start?
10 Penguinlike bird
11 ENT's sitcom?
12 Be nuts about
13 Muffles
21 Moved along by foot
22 Lecher
26 Cheer up
27 Smart one
28 Ah, __ off it!
29 Like a mustachioed barber?
32 Incubator occupant, for short
34 Aviator
36 Sadness
38 Sundance's girlfriend
39 Anti-Tweed cartoonist
42 Bees on the move
45 Warbled
49 Barbaric
51 Is of use
53 Pointed remarks
54 Video-game company
56 Pass on
57 Provide income
60 Writer Dinesen
61 She in Paris
62 Sharp cry
63 Once, once
65 NFL scores



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

1/31/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	I	S	E	■	P	E	T	E	R	■	P	A	T
A	N	N	E	X	■	U	N	I	T	E	■	O	R	E
G	O	N	N	A	F	L	Y	N	O	W	■	W	E	S
■	■	■	■	M	E	S	A	■	■	A	G	E	N	T
D	E	C	L	I	N	E	■	P	O	R	T	R	A	Y
E	R	R	A	N	D	■	V	O	O	D	O	O	■	■
P	R	A	T	E	■	W	A	S	P	S	■	F	A	D
O	O	Z	E	■	H	I	D	E	S	■	A	L	S	O
T	R	Y	■	G	O	N	E	R	■	D	R	O	N	E
■	■	F	A	L	T	E	R	■	S	E	A	V	E	R
T	R	O	P	I	C	S	■	A	N	T	L	E	R	S
H	A	R	E	M	■	■	A	G	U	A	■	■	■	■
I	V	Y	■	M	R	S	R	O	B	I	N	S	O	N
N	E	O	■	E	A	T	I	N	■	L	O	I	R	E
G	N	U	■	R	E	A	D	Y	■	S	T	R	A	W

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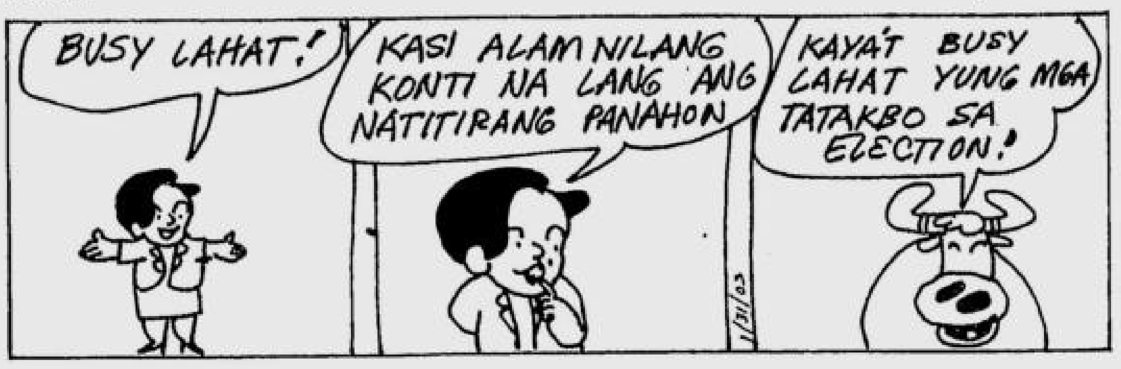
1/31/03

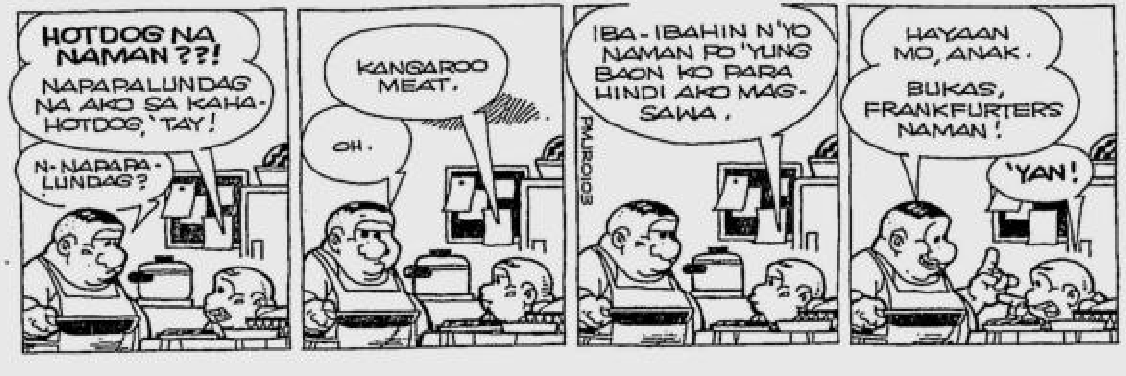
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BUSY LAHAT!
KASI ALAM NILANG KONTI NA LANG ANG NATITIRANG PANAHON
KAYA'T BUSY LAHAT YUNG MGA TATAKBO SA ELECTION!
1/31/03

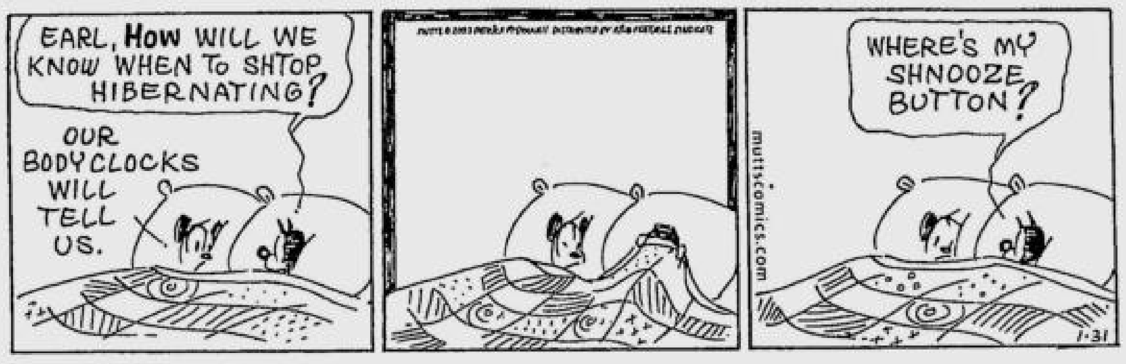
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HOTDOG NA NAMAN??!
NAPAPALUNDAG NA AKO SA KAHA-HOTDOG, 'TAY!
N-NAPAPA-LUNDAG?
KANGAROO MEAT.
OH.
IBA-IBAHIN N'YO NAMAN PO 'YUNG BAON KO PARA HINDI AKO MAG-SAWA.
HAYAAN MO, ANAK.
BUKAS, FRANKFURTERS NAMAN!
'YAN!

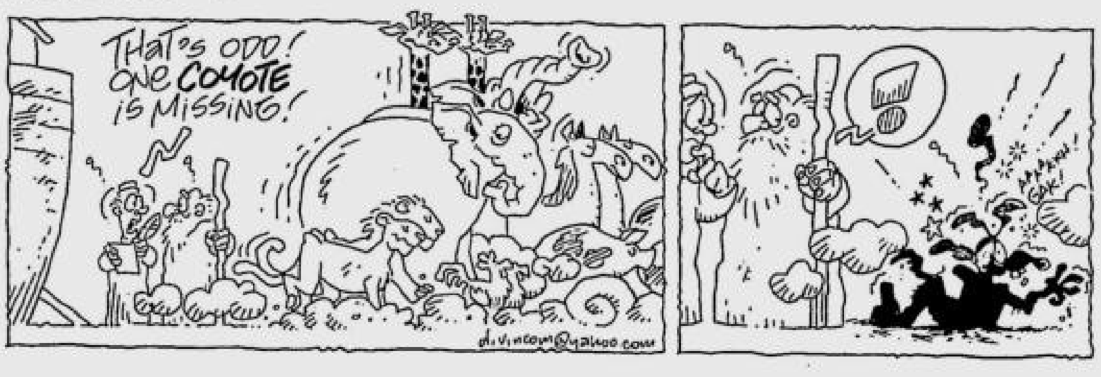
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN TO SHTOP HIBERNATING?
OUR BODYCLOCKS WILL TELL US.
WHERE'S MY SHNOOZE BUTTON?
muttscomics.com
1-31

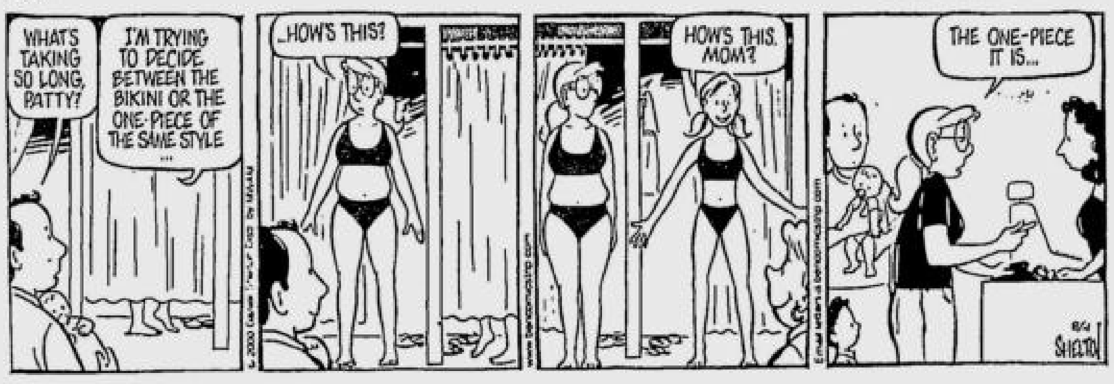
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THAT'S ODD! ONE COYOTE IS MISSING!
AAAAH! GAK!
divincom@yahoo.com

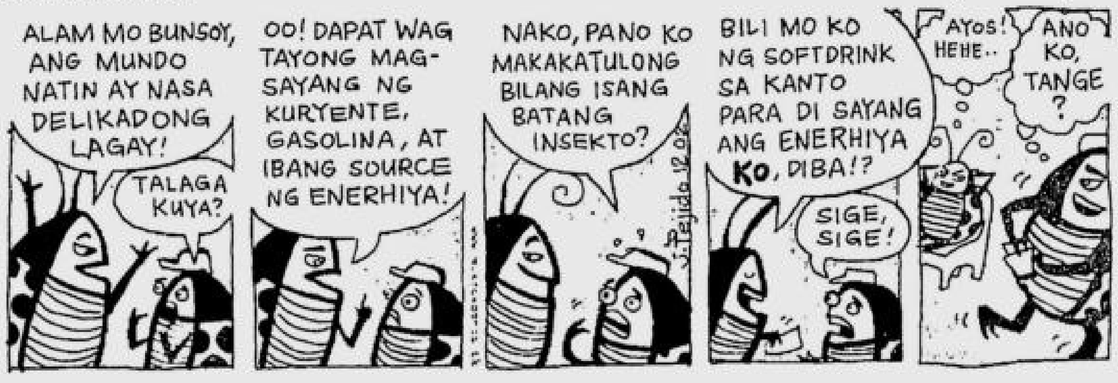
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG, PATTY?
I'M TRYING TO DECIDE BETWEEN THE BIKINI OR THE ONE-PIECE OF THE SAME STYLE ...
...HOW'S THIS?
HOW'S THIS, MOM?
THE ONE-PIECE IT IS...
SHELTON

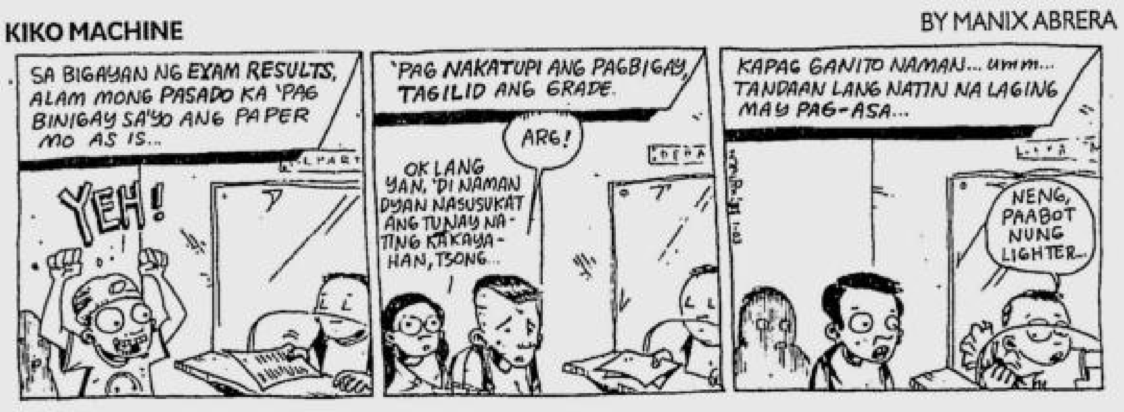
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALAM MO BUNSOY, ANG MUNDO NATIN AY NASA DELIKADONG LAGAY!
TALAGA KUYA?
OO! DAPAT WAG TAYONG MAG-SAYANG NG KURYENTE, GASOLINA, AT IBANG SOURCE NG ENERHIYA!
NAKO, PANO KO MAKAKATULONG BILANG ISANG BATANG INSEKTO?
BILI MO KO NG SOFTDRINK SA KANTO PARA DI SAYANG ANG ENERHIYA KO, DIBA!?
SIGE, SIGE!
AYOS! HEHE..
ANO KO, TANGE?

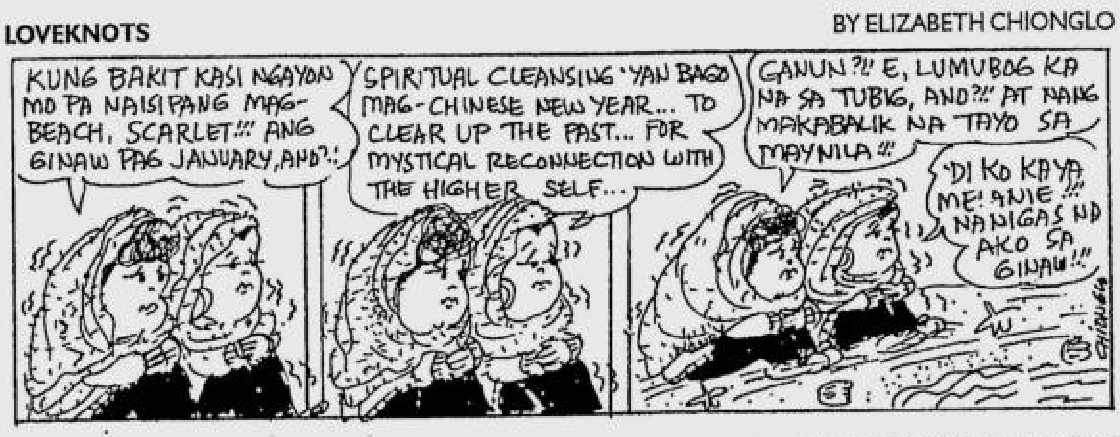
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SA BIGAYAN NG EXAM RESULTS, ALAM MONG PASADO KA 'PAG BINIGAY SA'YO ANG PAPER MO AS IS...
YEH!
'PAG NAKATUPI ANG PAGBIGAY, TAGILID ANG GRADE.
ARG!
OK LANG YAN, 'DI NAMAN DYAN NASUSUKAT ANG TUNAY NATING KAKAYAHAN, TSONG...
KAPAG GANITO NAMAN... umm... TANDAAN LANG NATIN NA LAGING MAY PAG-ASA...
NENG, PAABOT NUNG LIGHTER...

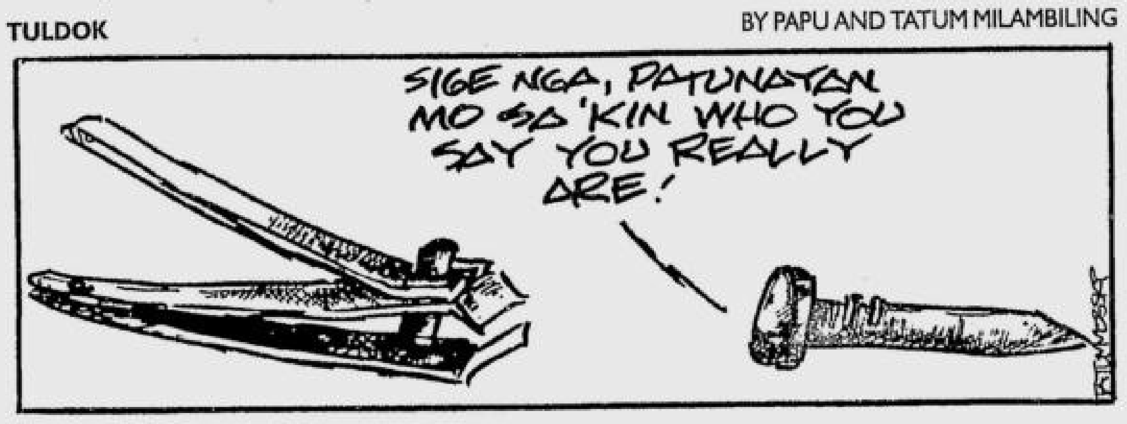
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG BAKIT KASI NGAYON MO PA NAISIPANG MAG-BEACH, SCARLET!!! ANG GINAW PAG JANUARY, AND?!
SPIRITUAL CLEANSING 'YAN BAGO MAG-CHINESE NEW YEAR... TO CLEAR UP THE PAST... FOR MYSTICAL RECONNECTION WITH THE HIGHER SELF...
GANUN?!! E, LUMUBOG KA NA SA TUBIG, AND?!! AT NANG MAKABALIK NA TAYO SA MAYNILA!!!
'DI KO KAYA ME! ANIE!!! NANIGAS NA AKO SA GINAW!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIGE NGA, PATUNAYAN MO SA 'KIN WHO YOU SAY YOU REALLY ARE!

Truths my father told me

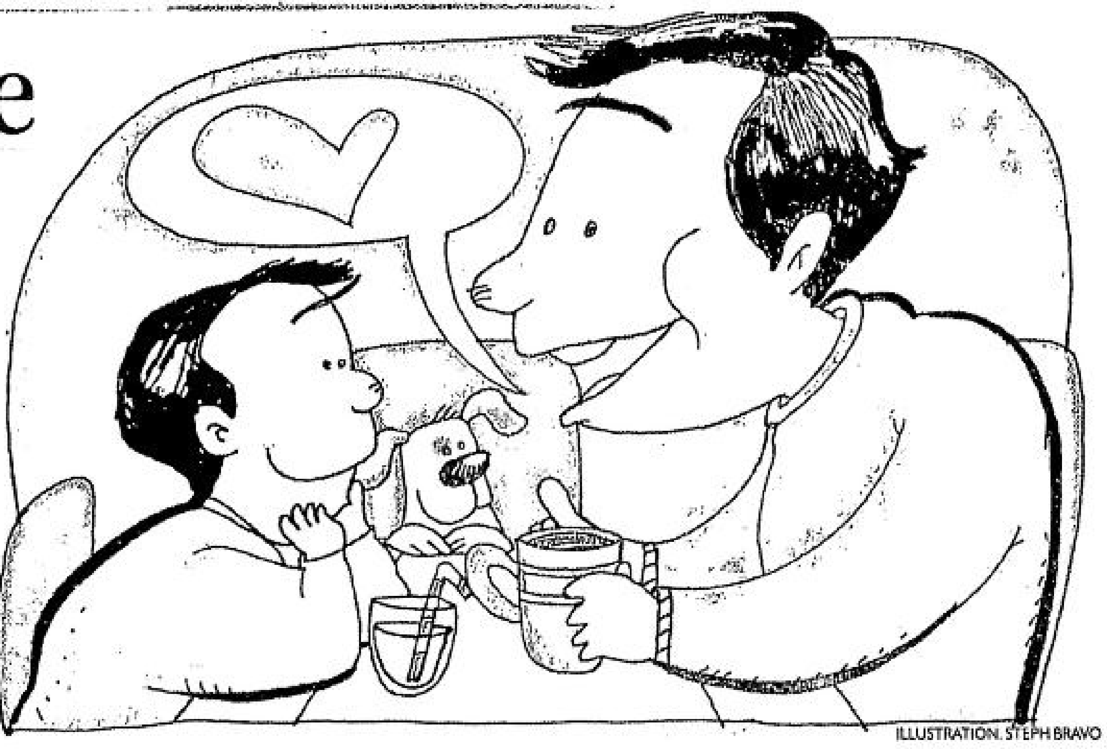


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Elbert Or
Contributor

> 'If I would be remembered for anything, it would be as a good father'

I have recorded three hours of conversation with my father, Benson Or. It begins with him saying, "There's a reason why you have two ears and one mouth: So you'll listen more and talk less. So ask your question and shut up. You might learn something, for all you know."

He tells me about his life, from his early years as a farmer in rural Fujian, China, to his arrival in the Philippines during his early 20s, with "nothing more than the clothes on my back and the thoughts in my head." He recalls being a sales agent for a packaging company, and a fairly successful one despite the language barrier between him and his mostly Filipino clients. He talks, and talks, and talks and I realize that it is hardly a "conversation" but more of a monologue.

But one can't help but keep quiet and listen, nodding thoughtfully on occasion. His voice, like the swelling crescendo in a symphony, compels you to hang on to his every word, eager to know what happens next.

His words, carefully chosen, are as compelling as his voice. He declares, "History is the story of great men, because (members of) the educated elite say so. They forget that they wouldn't be giants if the masses like us didn't carry them on our shoulders. It's why it's called his-tory and not, say, people-story."

I ask him, if you were to be in a huge book of a people's history, why would you be there? He rubs his stubbled chin and replies, "If I would be remembered for anything at all, for any achievement, it would be as a father." A father of what? I ask. "Just a father," he says. "A very good father of a family of six."

Benson in the middle

His story, he continues, would read something like this:

Born the second son of three to an impoverished family in rural Fujian, China, Benson Or suffered the stigma of being a middle child. He did not have the same educational opportunities as the eldest, only able to study until the third level in elementary school, nor did he receive the same attention as the youngest.

As a teenager, he worked in the farm. During the Cultural Revolution, he left the fields to do various odd jobs, like buying and selling cow dung as fertilizer or selling wristwatch copies, which he also fixed when they broke down.

He migrated to Manila in the early '70s, living with a distant uncle who ran a large packaging business. He quickly learned the business by watching others work and helping people at virtually every level of production. By watching television and talking to the workers he learned Pilipino. He regrets that he does not remember how he met his wife, my mother, although he quickly adds that it was because he was so enchanted by her beauty that he forgot what happened that day. The marriage has produced three daughters and a son.

Although he relies only on a monthly income, my father surprisingly manages to give his children a rather luxurious life. "All these—air-conditioners in every room, 29-inch TV sets, personal computers, hundreds of books—are what money and hard work can get you. I give you all this, even if it sometimes hurts my wallet and breaks my back, because now that you (have gotten used to them), you will have to study hard to get good jobs to be able to afford this lifestyle. It was all part of my grand plan," he laughs.

What money can't buy

"It is also because growing up, I never had such luxuries and opportunities. I know how it felt so I don't want you to feel that way. (But) I also don't want to be like other parents, who give their children everything money can buy. (Besides) there are things that money can't buy. Like care, and love, and attention."

He made sure his children did not lack any of those "things that money can't buy." Instead of leaving the children to a *yaya*, he himself took care of them. He believes that the right foundations are built during the early years. "It's sad and funny to see babies carried by their *yaya*. They might grow up more attached to the *yaya* than the parents, and even grow up looking more like her.

"But I am not judging them just because I raise my children one way and they raise theirs another way, although I think mine is right."

He is open-minded about many aspects of family life. He breaks with Chinese tradition when it comes to love, for instance. "I say it's okay to marry a non-Chinese. You say blood becomes impure, tainted by bad people? I say no. There are bad Filipinos and there are good Filipinos, just as there are bad Chinese and good Chinese. Good and bad don't distinguish among races."

But he thinks there are guidelines in choosing life partners. "Never someone ugly-ugly. You don't want to eat dinner, then look at her, and feel like throwing up. And never much richer than you. They might look down on you—if not the *asawa* then his or her family. For boys especially, never those (who are richer) because the girl might be spoiled and don't know house chores."

A woman's place

I ask, so you think women should stay at home?

"No, it is not about the woman, it is about you. Because if (she does) not (do the chores), you will have to do them. If she is spoiled, you will have a hard time.

"I don't believe in maids," he continues. "Hard to find good help. (Besides) keeping house is part of keeping a family, just as making a living is. Someone has to do it, because that's part of the agreement—agreement because no one forces anyone to do anything—and it is better for that someone to be in the family. Outsiders, especially these days, compromise safety and integrity of family unit. And doing chores together makes the family closer."

He prides himself in setting house rules that are observed even as he is open to change. "Present your case to the Council of Parents—Papa and Mama." My father is usually strict about not letting his children go out at night, saying, "It's okay for your classmates to go out and get kidnapped because they can pay the ransom. If it happens to us, I'll probably have to keep myself from breathing a sigh of relief, for having one less mouth to feed." He is concerned about drinking and driving and the fact that we live so far away making frequent *gimiks* a bit impractical and risky.

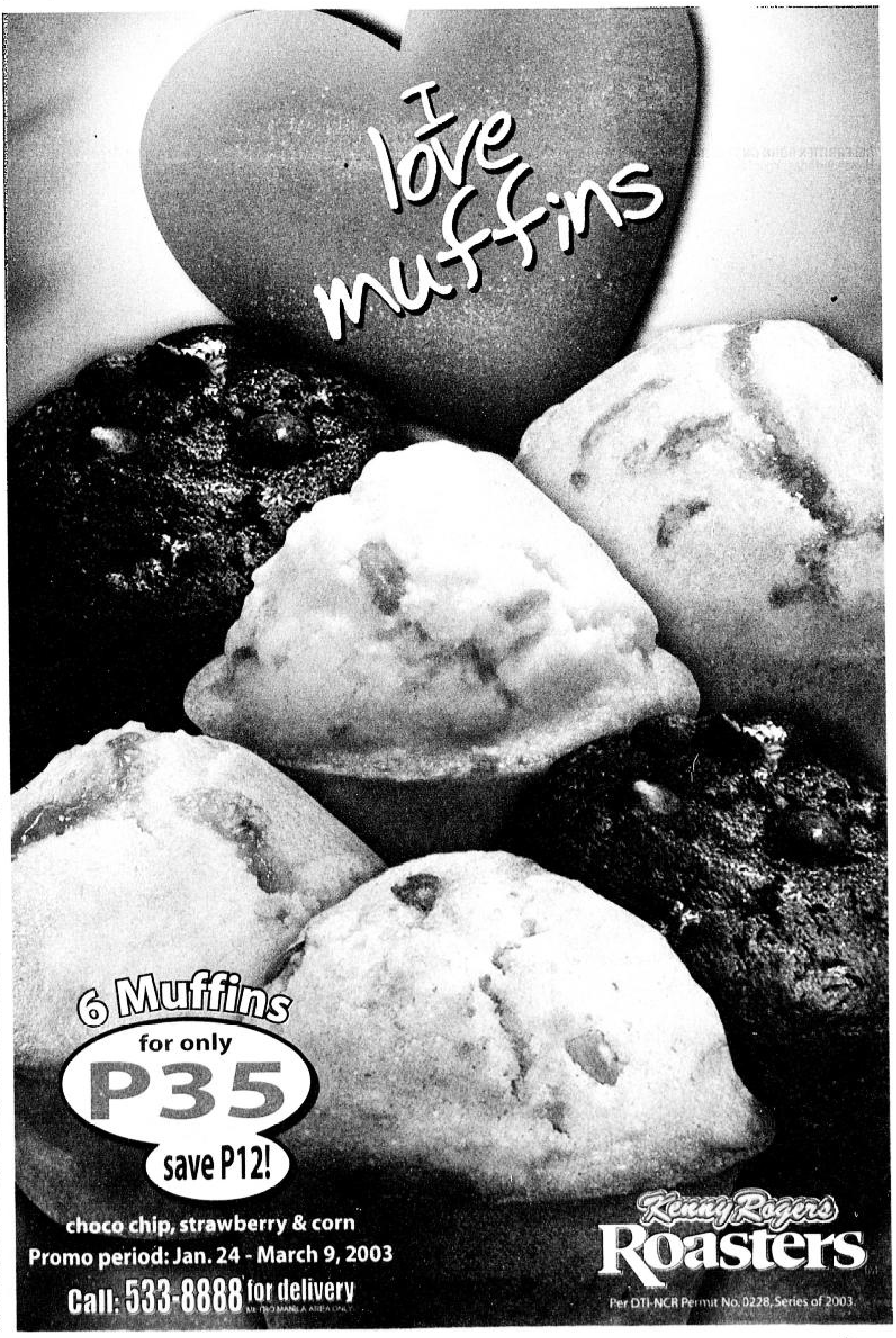
Occasionally, he gives his consent when the conditions are right - —going out with friends he knows once a month and when transportation is provided. But it involves a long negotiation since, as a parent, he can't help but worry.

He is also anxious about his children's future. "Sometimes, I wonder if I did good. But I stop because it turns into self-pity and that is something I don't allow because everything I do is for family. I worry about their future, of course, but I have done all I can to prepare them for it. The rest is up to them."

Modern man's smooth rise to the top

DO you have what it takes to be a good executive? In the office, out in the field, or at a formal dinner or party, are you at ease whenever you rub shoulders with the men and women who call the shots? Equal education will give you the "smarts" that you'll use once you're inside the door. However, in order to survive the first six months on the job, you'll have to be heads-up and observant all the time. That's when the real education begins. It's more than just brains. Can you exude competence and confidence without saying a single word? Here are some tips on how you can do that:

- You don't have to spend a fortune in order to look like a Fortune 500 executive or a decision maker for a Philippine 1000 company. While you're making your way up, it's better to dress appropriately for the job you have or possibly for the next one you want. It's wiser to show yourself as someone who understands both style and value. Expense isn't what matters as much as being a man who has class. Miriam Biddelman, a New York psychotherapist advises, "Think like the rich. Style and savvy count more among those in the know than displays of cold cash."
- Consider this piece of economic wisdom: "If your spending exceeds your income, it's the upstart of your downfall." So live within your means. By doing so, you will be showing, at the very least, good judgment. That's the stuff good executives are known for. The key is to spend wisely, not lavishly. So here's a formula you can try: Each year, spend three-quarters of a month's take-home pay on career clothes and one-quarter on sports attire, to look your contemporary best."
- When shopping, estimate the "CPW"—that is, the cost per wearing. Often a well made item in a durable fabric and timeless style will be a better buy. In terms of style, simplicity saves money but packs more classic image power into every clothing peso spent.
- Never underestimate good manners and right conduct. Personal etiquette allows you to stand out in the crowd. Making people comfortable and being sensitive to their needs is critical to maintaining healthy personal and business relationships. This is becoming more so as cross-cultural business relationships increase.
- Pay attention to your personality style—the way you present yourself, your communication skills, your business smarts. They are just as important as your performance.
- Defy conventional wisdom. Think of cutting back on your image spending as a sign of growing wiser. In the long run it is your judgment that is most important to your superiors. When you realize that flashy is noticeable but not impressive, you begin to make more of an impact on them and on your own savings.
- And finally, always wear clothing that not only fits well and looks good, but is comfortable too. The best place to start is with your undergarments. They should be made of lightweight 100 percent cotton. They should have a durable yet comfortable waistband that fits well. Hartmann underfashion has these features. Hartmann also has an anti-bacterial component woven into the fabric for all-day freshness. So for half the price of the better known brand, you can get the same quality with the added advantage of anti-bacterial freshness.



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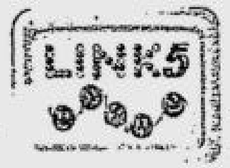

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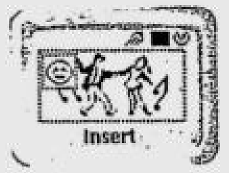

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Home

Practical magic in elegant kitchens

SieMatic makes dream kitchens come true

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Romy Homillada

VOLKER Betsch, SieMatic Far East Office managing director

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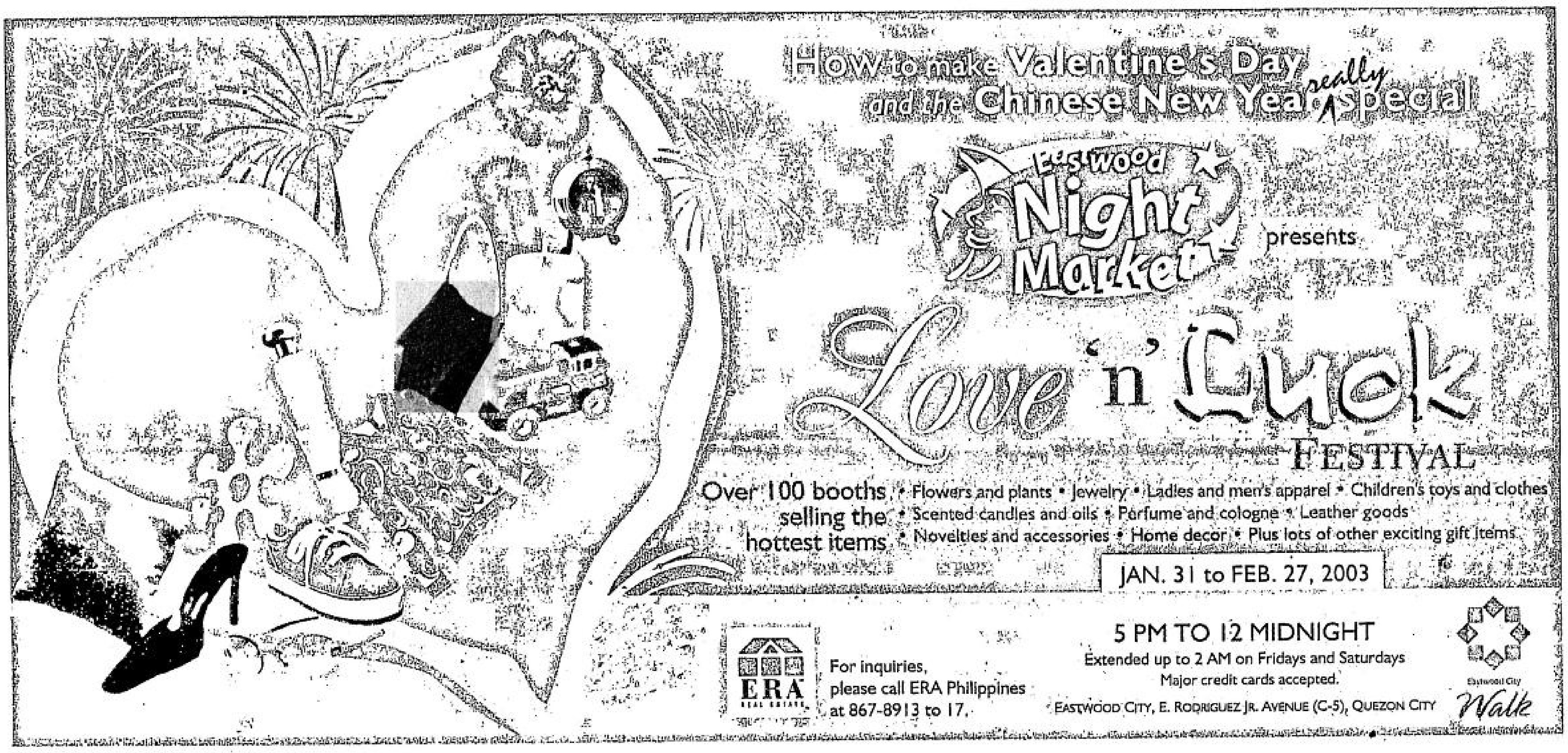

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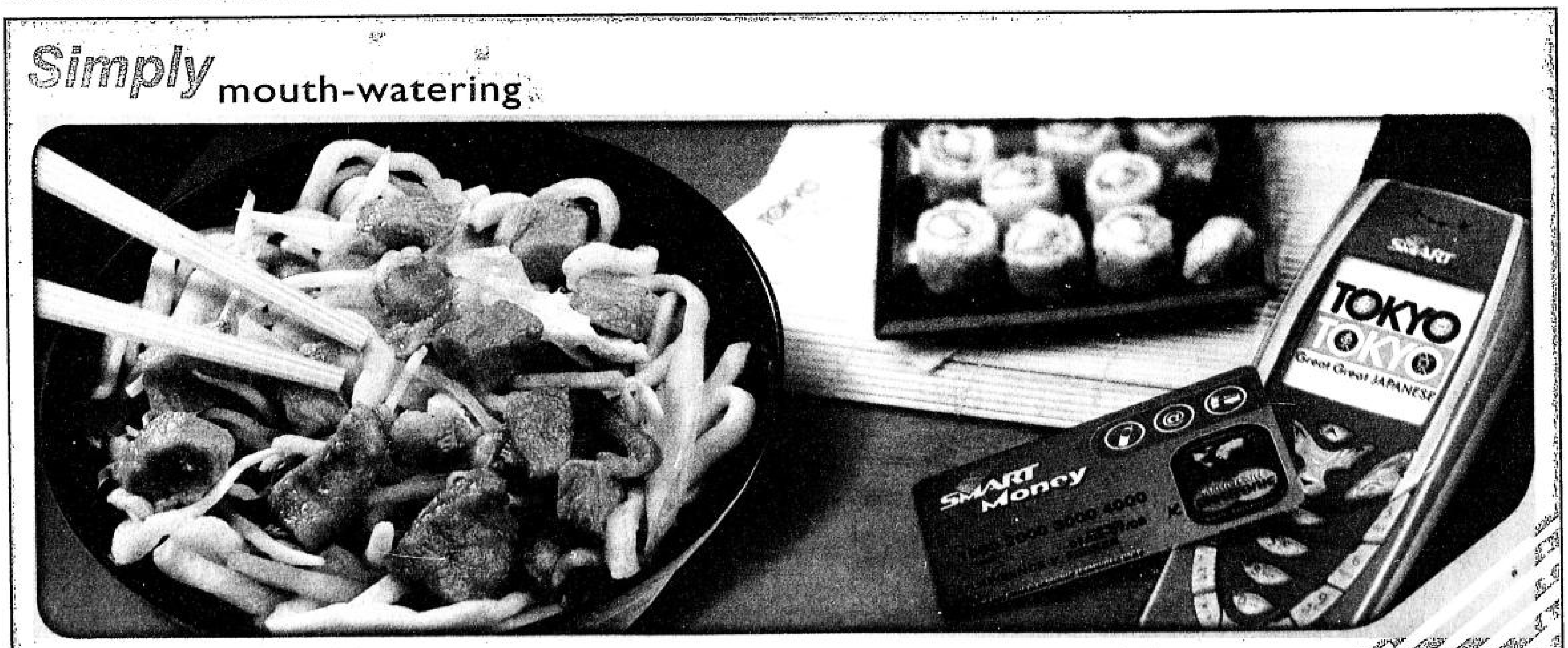

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UST offers national writing workshop fellowships

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies is now accepting applications to the fourth UST National Writers Workshop to be held on April 21-26. The workshop will focus on poetry, fiction and one-act play. It is open to writers who have not been awarded fellowships to any national writers workshop.

An applicant should submit five hardcopies, and a diskette copy (MS Word format) of the manuscript, containing at least five poems, or two short stories, or two one-act plays, a resume, and 2x2 ID photo.

Applicants should also enclose a certification duly signed by their institutions/companies that the articles submitted are authentic and have not been copied from elsewhere.

The deadline for submission is on Feb. 15. Successful applicants will be granted fellowships that will cover modest board and lodging. Call 731-3101 local 8281.

GOINGS ON

CONTRIBUTIONS. The Center for Creative Writing and Studies (CCWS) of the University of Santo Tomas is now accepting contributions to the seventh issue of Tomas, official literary journal of the Pontifical University.

Poetry, fiction, essays and one-act plays in English or Filipino are welcome. Deadline is Feb. 28. Forward all contributions with a short bio-data to the CCWS G/F, St. Raymund's Bldg, UST, España, Manila. Call 731-3101 local 8281.

REUNION. Class '65 alumni from Assumption Academy of Pampanga and Don Bosco Academy will hold a joint reunion on Feb. 16 at Greenfields Country Club in Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. Call Edna Buenviaje-Cruz at (0917) 530-2734 or Nancy Ladringan-Harel at 636-0255 to 58 for Manila residents, and Mely Santos-Roque at (0918) 903-8838 for Pampanga residents.

FORUM. The Landmark Forum, America's most popular three-day program to create possibilities in your life, is back in Manila. Jermone Downes will be conducting the program Jan. 31, Feb. 1-2, at 24/F, Exportbank Plaza, Chino Roces, Makati. Call Aljor Perreras at 851-8500 or (0917) 667-9774.

SEMINAR. The "Healing Explosion" seminar will be held on Feb. 2, 2-6 p.m. at the 3/F, GD Building, corner D. Tuazon Street, and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Fr. Joey Faller will be the main speaker. Call 711-1278 and 732-8858.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT COURSE. Millennial Heritage Training Center will conduct a seminar/workshop on "Basic Flower Arrangement and Flower Shop Operation" at the Virata Hall ISSI, G/F, Jacinto Street, UP Diliman, QC, on Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The course will cover basic flower arrangements, as well as basic and advance topiary-making. As a bonus, floral packaging for all occasions will be shown.

The lecture portion will cover flower shop operation and organizational management, costing, pricing, as well as sourcing of materials. Call 373-8549/8616.

MUSICAL SHOW. The Zonta Club of Greater Rizal II presents the "Spirit of Love" concert at the NBC Tent on Feb. 8. It features the Spirit of 67 band and Protege Band.

The primary beneficiary of the Valentine musical show is the club's adopted barangay in Caloocan City. Call 843-8305.

REUNION. The Santos-Villalon-Teodoro clan, with origins from Marikina City, will celebrate its first grand reunion on Feb. 15, 3 p.m. at the Commissioned Officer's Club in Camp Aguinaldo, QC. Call Lilia Tuazon at 807-1851; Nini Bactad at 551-7248; and Toti Villalon at 816-6560.

SEMINAR. To revive the interest of the investing public in the stock market, A.T. Valino Public Relations Firm is holding a seminar on "How to Invest in the Stock market" on Feb.15, 1-5 p.m. at the Mondragon House, Sen. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Lecturer is Juan G. Barredo, vice president/director for sales and training of the CitisecOnline.com Inc.

Barredo will talk about market dynamics, how to fundamentally pick valuable stocks, accelerating profits through technical analysis, trading techniques and risk prevention. Call 728-5690 or (0917) 785-9060.

GREAT BUYS. Sta. Lucia East Department Store transforms its store into a lovers' shopping haven with decors and gifts for Valentine.

From Feb. 1-15, shoppers will be treated to a wide selection of great gift ideas.

Shoppers will also be given a Valentine treat. They may join the Hearts' Desires Grab-a-Prize Promo for a minimum purchase of P300 and win gifts sponsored by Jaygee and Secosana bags and Ever Bilena Cosmetics on Feb. 12-14.

EXPO. The 1st Wedding Expo Philippines Choir Competition will feature 30 choirs in Metro Manila, Lipa City, San Pablo City, Los Baños and Cavite. The elimination round will be held at the UP Bahay Ng Alumni on Feb. 16.

The semifinal and final rounds are slated on March 1-2 at the NBC Tent Cocktail Grounds. Call 371-9783 and 410-0032.

BIG DISCOUNT. Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, will launch its Club Merks Privilege Card membership program at the grand opening of Greenbelt in Makati.

The minimal membership fee entitles the cardholder to an exclusive privilege of 10 percent off on cash and credit. Other benefits include a Lunch Gift Certificate for 2, a complimentary dish birthday treat, donation to a children's fund in the member's name, invitations to special events and cocktails at Merk's, discount on ticket shows, a bottlekeep of Chivas Regal and Carlos Primero at a discounted price, newsletter, jazz club membership, cinema tickets, promo-gift for CD purchase at Music One. Call 757-4720 and 757-4721.

SALE. Best Brands! Appliance Center is holding a sale at Isetann Cubao and Carriedo with big discounts on audio-video and home and office appliances.

Shoppers can enjoy as much as 20 percent discount on selected Samsung models at Isetann Cubao until March 31. They can also get best value for flexible payment terms on all major credit cards (up to 24 months), with 0 percent interest rates on selected leading brands such as Sony, Sharp and Aiwa. Avail of easy installment terms with the Easy-Own Appliance Loan Facility.

At Isetann Carriedo, liquidation items are available at 30 percent off the original price. Discounts are also available for leading brands like Sony, Aiwa, Samsung and Sharp. Call Grace Samson or Karen Revilla at (02) 525-2215.

WORKSHOP. The Lopez Museum will hold an art workshop for adolescents aged 10-16, 10 a.m. to 12 nn every Saturday starting Feb. 15 until March 8. To be facilitated by UP Fine Arts graduate and art teacher Amy Aragon, all sessions will be held at the Lopez Museum, G/F Benpres Building, Exchange Road, Pasig. Call Fanny San Pedro at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

NATIONAL TOUR. The Integrated Performing Arts Guild (Ipag) of Mindanao is now touring the Philippines as part of its 2003 performing season. Ipag is the resident theater company of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology. In its recent European tour, it completed over 60 performances in four countries, presenting a command performance for Prince Albert at the Hotel de Paris in Monaco. It won the grand prize in the Concourse de Chancon Internationaux of the 13th International Folkloric Festival in Port Sur Saone, France.

On March 23-31, Ipag represents the country anew in the "Ties That Bind" project, performing dance-narratives in Shanghai, China.

Ipag is touring "Buhay, Pag-ibig at Kamatayan" and "Tales From Mindanao," and will premiere its "Mga Kwentong Mindanao Pambata."

Ipag will perform at the Silliman University (Feb. 6, 3 and 7 p.m., Luce Auditorium).

The complete schedule follows: "The Best of CASS" (Feb. 15, 7 p.m., MSU-IIT gym); "Tales from Mindanao": Oroquieta City (Feb. 15, 7 p.m.), Tangub City (Feb. 16, 7 p.m.), Malaybalay, Bukidnon (Feb. 19, 7 p.m.), St. Paul's College, Manila (Feb. 25, 10 a.m.), Miriam College (Feb. 27, 2 p.m.), International School, Taguig (Mar. 21, 7 p.m.), Boracay (April 10-11), Kalibo (April 12); "Mga Kwentong Mindanao Pambata" (Feb. 21, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., MSU-IIT gym, Iligan City); and, "Pasundayag sa Northern Mindanao," Intramuros (April 5, 4 p.m.).

CHINA PORCELAIN SHOW

This year's "China Porcelain" exhibit at the Araneta Coliseum features hand-made classic ceramics from Jingdezhen, Jiongeheia Province, China. The exhibit, which is sponsored by EK National Enterprises, is also ongoing at Gaisano in Cebu City and Davao City.

AN EXHIBIT of rare and antique wood furniture dubbed "Heart of Wood" is ongoing at the Art Space in Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Mounted by Osmundo Gallery of Fine Arts and Antiques, the exhibit runs until Feb. 5. Photo shows a pair of 19th-century style Philippine ebony (kamagong) armoire with leaf inlay. Call 729-5130.

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Garden and landscape exhibit ongoing

REY Santos, Philippine Horticultural Society's director and co-chair of the 2003 garden and landscape exhibition, won in several categories including third place for Best Booth by a member exhibitor.

"Horticulture 2003," supported by Filinvest Land Inc., has a futuristic and experimental theme.

Santos, who's known for growing resplendent foliage plants, received the first prize for his Cocotrinax crinita, a palm with slender leaves that fan out in a circle, as well as for his Philodendron serratum, which has huge sword-like leaves and was entered under the aroid and anthurium division.

His other winning pieces include the Bromeliad Lorena, whose dark red-violet leaves are splayed like the petals of a huge flower. The plant, which won second place among the bromeliads, actually looks like several gigantic roses tied up in a bouquet.

REY Santos

Second prize went to his Eugenia species. His Crested asplenium, a monopodial fern with elongated pleated leaves got a merit award.

Horticulture 2003 is ongoing until Feb. 2 at the Manila Seedling Bank in Quezon Avenue cor. Edsa, QC.

AWARD-WINNING bromeliads

His wife has untidy habits

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My wife does not know how to keep our home neat and tidy. For example, after reading the newspaper, she just throws the pages anywhere. In the bathroom, the shampoo, soap and toothpaste are never in their proper places. In the bedroom, hangers, her comb and her clothes are jumbled.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

We often argue about this, but she says order is not important as the maid can attend to it. I have tried to accept her untidy habits, hoping that someday she will reform. However, I have given up hope that she would someday cook and serve me at the table as most wives do.

FRANCIS

We have a saying that we should not criticize anyone until we know what he or she has been through. This is not to defend her, but probably the explanation for her shocking habits is that her parents never showed her good examples of daily habits. Your letter will awaken parents and remind them that the best way to teach is by setting good examples.

Even your maid might lose her patience picking up after your wife each day, and might decide to look for another family to work for.

There is also the saying that "you cannot teach an old dog new tricks." Your wife is still young, so this does not answer your problem. Maybe the best answer to your problem is for her to read your letter, wake up to reality and reform. Good luck.

Recipes

I READ your column via the Internet on lunch breaks. I am also interested in the PDI Lifestyle's food page, but since Doreen Fernandez passed away, I cannot find any recipes anymore in your newspaper. I enjoy reading the recipes.

NATY PRADO
Melbourne, Australia

The food page comes out every Thursday, and recipes are now always featured. Happy reading.

Volunteer

I HAVE always wanted to volunteer my time to causes, but my last job did not allow me to. Now that I have time in my hand, I wonder where I can start.

I have a couple of friends who are willing to join me, too, and I hope that you would be able to help me.

LULU
lulu_mellonida@hotmail

God bless you and your friends for your kind hearts. I hope institutions concerned will read your letter and get in touch with you via e-mail or send their addresses to this column. You can also look up the contact numbers of other charitable institutions in the telephone directory.

Cooking odors

I READ your advice to Sheila on how to keep cooking odors away. I would like to share my formula: boil water with orange/lemon peeling and potpourri (you can use old potpourri).

JEAN

Thank you for your advice.

Now here is a suggestion for those bothered by the smell of paint: place charcoal or a bowl of vinegar around the place.

Correcting a correction

I AM a catechist in Davao and I would like to make a correction regarding the comment of Mr. Lumibao from Switzerland. He said that you were wrong in citing the Sixth Commandment as "Thou shalt not commit adultery." You were right and he was wrong, because the Seventh Commandment is "Thou shalt not steal."

VIVIAN CAM

Thank you. What Mr. Lumibao stated really shocked me, and I thought I had suddenly become ignorant of the Ten Commandments.

Another reader, John Francis, also sent me a message similar to yours, referring to the Holy Bible, the Book of Exodus, Chapter 20, verse 1-17.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263, or at the PDI office

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Telecoms company ranks No. 4 in biz mag survey

FOR THE SECOND year in a row, Globe Telecom was placed in the list of the leading companies in the Philippines and Asia in the "Review 200: Asia's Leading Companies " annual survey of Far Eastern Economic Review, Asia's premier business newsweekly.

In the Dec. 26-Jan. 2 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review, Globe Telecom came up as the No. 4 among the top 10 Philippine company leaders in the magazine's ranking of Asia's leading companies. In its debut appearance among the Philippines' best companies in 2001, Globe was ranked No. 6.

With Jollibee Foods, Ayala Corp. and San Miguel Corp. occupying the first three positions in the survey, its fourth-place ranking makes Globe the No. 1 Philippine telecommunications company. "Fast-food, phones and beer led in the Philippines, suggesting that consumers are stepping up to help fill the void left by disappearing exports," the publication said.

Also in the survey, Globe ranked No. 3 in terms of high quality services and products; No. 2 in terms of being innovative in responding to customer needs; and No. 4 in being a company that others try to emulate.

Globe is a full-service telecommunications company offering cellular mobile telephone system, fixed telephone and international communications services, International Private Leased lines, Internet access, Very Small Aperture Terminal service, Inter-Exchange Carrier service, Frame Relay, Value-Added Network Services and other domestic data communications services. It is owned by Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecom International and Deutsche Telekom.

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Linao St., Quezon City
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cor. Arrocerros and
Concepcion Streets, Manila
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Luzon : Robinsons Place Imus • Robinsons Town Mall, Los Baños • Waltermart Calamba • Waltermart Carmona • Waltermart Dasmariñas • Waltermart General Trias • Waltermart Sta. Rosa • LCC Central Mall, Naga • LCC Complex, Legaspi • Center Mall, Baguio • Magic Star, Tarlac • Mega Center, The Mall, Cabanatuan
Visayas/Mindanao : Robinsons Place Cebu • Robinsons Place Bacolod • Robinsons Place Iloilo • Marymart Center, Iloilo • Gaisano City, Roxas • Gaisano Mall, Davao • Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0125 Series of 2003

AESTHETICS and function in your kitchen, with integrated lighting system, sliding shelf doors and multifunctional drawers

High-end kitchens are a combination of high-tech equipment, ergonomic design for ease of movement plus efficient storage and stylish details

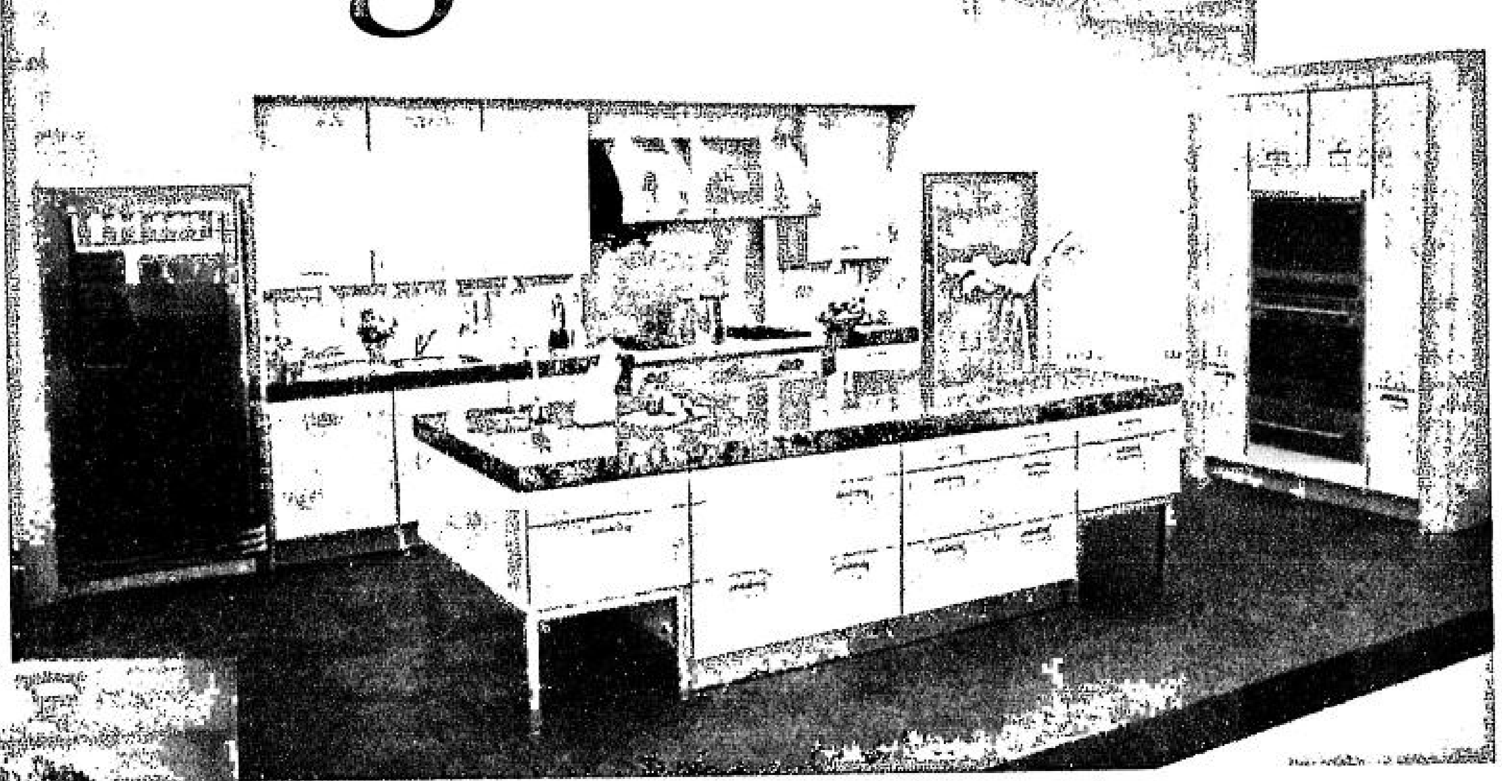
Practical magic in elegant kitchens

From page E1

er of high-end kitchen furniture, SieMatic.

Located on Pioneer corner Reliance Streets, Mandaluyong City, the showroom features the stuff dream kitchens are made of, with various designs and functions to assure great ease and convenience. Although the kitchen is a workplace, and SieMatic knows whoever is in charge of it needs an efficient arena, the company also knows the cook needs to be pampered.

Before installation, a team of SieMatic advisers takes note of the clients' lifestyle, personalities and habits; whether they constantly entertain guests, if they are conservative and traditional or outgoing and gregarious. It also takes into account whether the person who will use the kitchen is right- or left-handed; as well, worktops and cabinets are adjusted to his/her height. This results in greater kitchen flexibility and comfort.



THE INTERNATIONAL style, characterized by neatness, clarity and the deliberate lack of arbitrary ornamentation

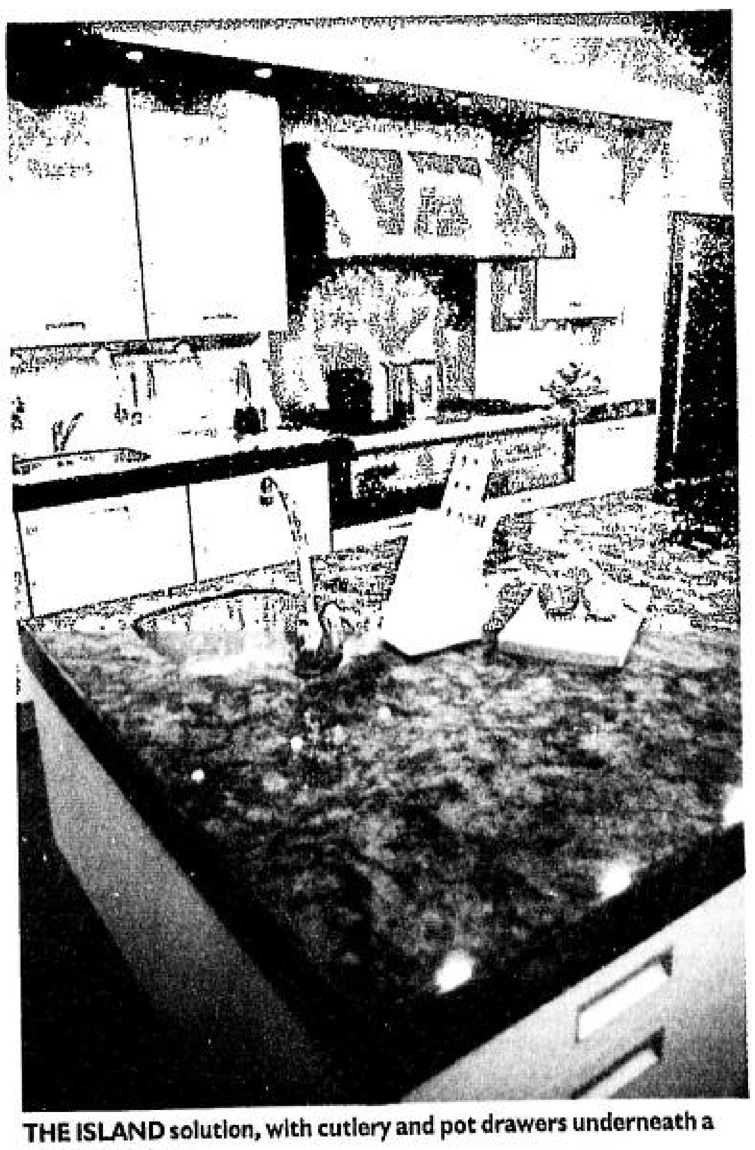
PURE and simple lines accentuate this kitchen, with fold/lift glass panel shelves, multifunctional island with electric cooktop, integrated double oven and wine refrigerator on the cabinet wall and refrigerator/freezer that blends with the décor.

"[We are committed to] good customer service, good designs, new innovations and good installation," says Volker Betsch, SieMatic Far East Office managing director. SieMatic is exclusively distributed here by Focus Global Inc.

Having it all

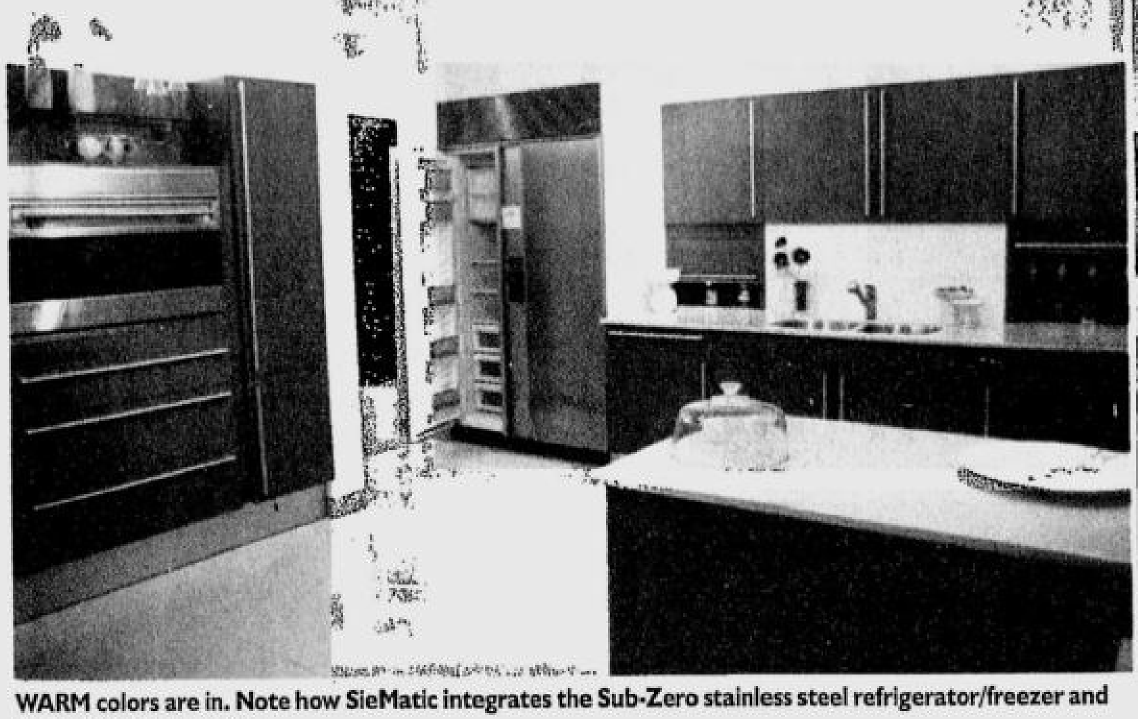
From simple, uncluttered designs without visible cabinet handles to kitchens with strong geometric patterns and clean lines, SieMatic has it all. Designs are available in

KITCHENS/ E5



THE ISLAND solution, with cutlery and pot drawers underneath a granite worktop

COUNTRY style, already a fast winner among Filipinos for its warmth and homey appeal



WARM colors are in. Note how SieMatic integrates the Sub-Zero stainless steel refrigerator/freezer and Wolf oven into its design.

MODERN classic design, with glass-panel cabinets integrated on the wall

From page E4

many colors, from cold, sleek steel to the warm hues of wood and natural stones such as granite and limestone.

There are over 30 door styles and 200 variations of panels. SieMatic tries to provide the answer to every problem that may arise. A corner cabinet with semicircular turntables and carousels, drawers with rounded corners to make cleaning a snap, adjustable shelves, triple-layer chrome-plating that's scratch- and rust-free, integrated lighting system and integrated ladder for high cabinets.

Every part of a SieMatic kitchen is the product of state-of-the-art German technology and undergoes intensive tests before shipment. For instance, Betsch says drawers are opened and closed 160,000 times to pass the test. He adds the pullout drawers can carry up to 80 kg, a feature unique to SieMatic; cabinets are dust- and insect-free, and, since the company employs the triple-layer particle part in its wood technology, termites will find its products very inhospitable. In fact, SieMatic is the first and only kitchen furniture company to have a design patented.

"In Europe, kitchens are the main part of the home where families gather together and where parties end," says Betsch. In Asia, he observes, there is the "dirty" and "not-so-dirty" kitchen, and helpers take care of them. With today's dramatic lifestyle changes, however, such as the emergence of more and more independent Asians, Betsch hopes SieMatic will find a niche market.

With prices ranging from P300,000 to P10 million, a SieMatic kitchen is an investment that can last for more than 30 years. "We can make designs that can be upgraded later if they don't have the money now," Betsch says.

Suitable equipment

A high-end kitchen deserves high-tech kitchen equipment. That's what the Sub-Zero/Wolf company provides. Sub-Zero makes refrigerators/freezers, while Wolf is the cooking appliance division. SieMatic easily integrates both into its designs.

Sub-Zero, the pioneer in hidden refrigeration, is now the leading manufacturer of premium, built-in integrated and undercounter refrigerators, freezers and wine storage facilities. A unique feature of its products is the dual refrigeration system that relies on two separate, self-contained cooling systems for the refrigerator and freezer, making stored food last three times longer.

The technology does not use more electricity than standard equipment yet energy efficient."[Our biggest unit] at 48 inches takes less electricity to operate in one year than a 100-watt light bulb, [and] it lasts for up to 25 years," says Michael Avery, Sub-Zero/Wolf director of international sales. A micro process control with computer makes the compressor run only when needed.

As form is as vital as function, clients can choose from three distinct front-finish designs: overlay, framed and, the consistent top seller, stainless steel.

Chilling the wine

Wine connoisseurs will delight in Sub-Zero's wine refrigerator's dual temperature feature. Engineers have taken careful note of things that affect wine taste: temperature/humidity, vibration and light.

"Every wine has two important temperatures—storage and serving," says Avery. Sub-Zero is adjustable from 38°-65°, vibration from the compressor is [almost completely] minimized through rubber dampeners, and [it] has dual-panel glass, UV-coated on the outside with a layer of argon gas in between. Some units even come with refrigerated drawers for stocking beer."

Wolf, meanwhile, specializes in handcrafted cookware products, ranging from gas and electric cooktops, gas rangetops, integrated cooktops, built-in ovens and microwave ovens to warming drawers, barbecue grills, range hoods and other accessories.

Features include dual oven convection that delivers even temperature and airflow; infrared technology for even and consistent heat in the oven broiler, charbroiler and griddle; dual burners for gas ranges, the outer flame for high heat and inner flame for a delicate, uniform low heat. The ranges' fast temperature recovery allows a return to optimum cooking temperature in seconds.

"These are very compatible products. [SieMatic] is a very high-end product and we like to think ours is, too," says Avery.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

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ACTORS Ricky Davao and Bobby Sandico

JUSTICE Andy Reyes and broadcaster Mel Tiangco

JEWELER Anita Chan with the celebrant

An Arabian night for 80th birthday

THE PLAZA patriarch Jose "Joe" Reyes, whom many consider a living legend in the food and restaurant industry, celebrated his 80th birthday recently. To mark the milestone, eldest daughter Millie Reyes, now at the helm of the family's restaurant and catering business, led her sisters and brothers in concocting a unique surprise party for their father.

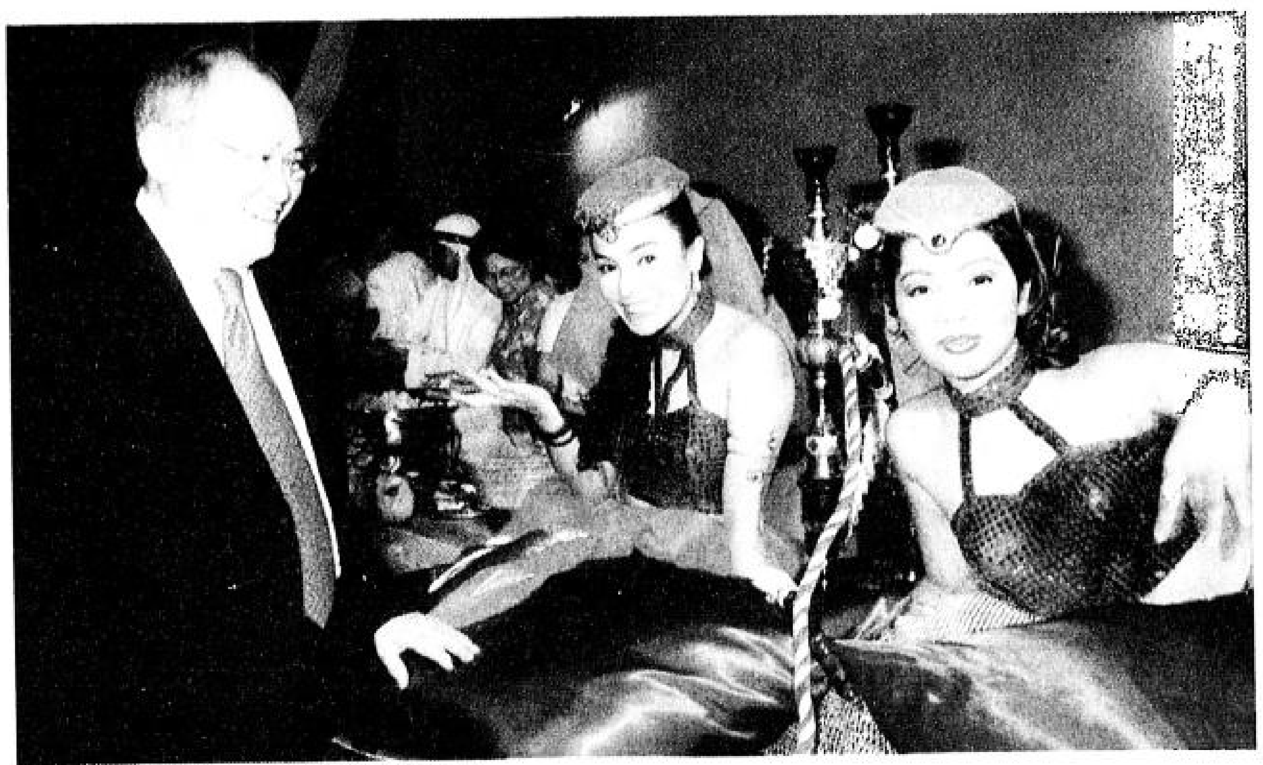
"We adapted the Arabian Nights theme because dad had always wanted to have belly dancers in our family gatherings but our mom Meldy wouldn't allow it," Millie said.

And so for the healthy 80-year-old Joe, the capacious ballroom of the renovated Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City was made to look like a sheik's palace. Two long buffet tables were groaning with luscious New Zealand oysters and mussels, giant king crabs, Black Angus rib-eye, Chilean Bass, caviar pie and, of course, the famous Plaza Virginia Ham. Propped on both ends of the tables were Joe's belly dancers, sitting seductively on Persian carpets and oversized pillows. Waiters in white caftans completed the near-authentic setup.

The evening's entertainment was a lively musical pastiche performed by Joe's children, grandchildren and longtime family friends. Gary Lising opened the event on the right note by delivering an uproarious roast-cum-tribute to the celebrator. Joe's favorite singer, Dulce, sang some of his favorite songs accompanied by dentist-pianist Larry Mallari. His grandchildren, dressed as young Arab royals, took centerstage to present a skit titled, "Our Lolo Joe, The Sheik," written by eldest grandson Anton and directed by theater stalwart Bart Guingona.

But what brought the house down was the musical medley performed by Joe's children and their spouses—daughters Millie, Marijo and husband Bongo Feraren, Dorcie and husband Benjie Guingona; and sons Gerry and Raymund and wife Teeter. The program ended appropriately enough with—what else?—a voluptuous belly dancer popping out of a gigantic three-tiered cake!

Some 350 guests filled the ballroom to greet the venerable restaurateur on his 80th year. Among them were Vice President Tito Guingona, Senators Manny Villar and Loren Legarda, the Peninsula Manila's P.L. Lim and wife Madelaine, Amparing Aspiras, Doña Nene Vera-Perez, former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabby Singson and wife Moonyeen, lawyer Tony Meer, stockbroker Ernest Leung, jeweler Anita Chan, Bulgari's Mario Katigbak, Arthur and Mariter Macapagal, Dr. Jimmy Laya, haberdasher Mel Meer of Bergamo, photographer Rupert Jacinto and wife Tina, and working socialites Agnes Huibonhoa, Ching Cruz and Maritess Panlilio.


JOE, the birthday boy, with his belly dancers

JOE Reyes with P.L. Lim, Tony Meer and Gabby Singson

MEL Meer, Millie Reyes, the celebrant and Mario Katigbak

Better late than never

Another not-so-recent birthday boy is dynamic young entrepreneur Gelo Serrano, founder and chair of the budding ad and PR agency, Infinite Ideas. Gelo hosted a dinner at Aressi Restaurant in Quezon City. The party also served as a thanksgiving for Infinite Ideas' third year in the business, and a welcome party for partner and creative director Onat Roldan, who returned from a business trip in the United States. Gelo's guests included his show-biz pals like Aga Muhlach, Randy Santiago (with glam-wife Malou), Agot Isidro and hubby Mano Sandejas, JM Rodriguez, Cutie del Mar, Jackie Forster, Ricky Davao and clients Felix Tiukinhoy of Virginia Food Inc., Randy Libre and Hernan and Tita Vitas.

BART Guingona emcees the program.

GARY Lising, Sen. Manny Villar and Sen. Loren Legarda

VICE President Tito Guingona

GELO Serrano with Aga Muhlach, Lysa San Agustin, Merle Tiongson and Jon Dona

Twin mall openings

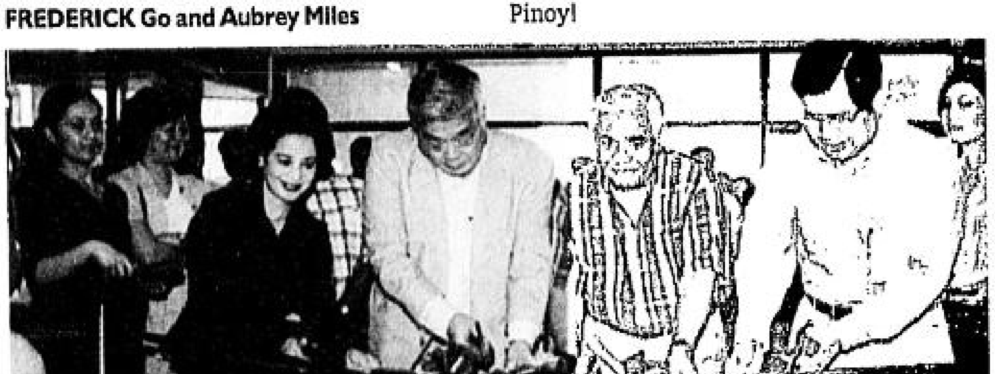
ROBINSONS Land Corp. (RLC) recently opened two more shopping malls: Robinsons Big R Supercenter in Cagayan de Oro and Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa in Laguna.

Big R Supercenter, a mass merchandise hypermart, the first ever type retail format to open in Mindanao, is housed on the second level. Open from 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Big R Supercenter offers a wide assortment of fresh produce and grocery products. It also offers other types of merchandise such as apparel, toys, appliances and many more. The Cagayan de Oro branch is the fifth Big R Supercenter.

Complementing this unique retail concept are new and exciting formats found at this two-level shopping mall. Popular signature brands, shoe stores, which carry both local and foreign brands, sporting apparel, quick-serve restaurants, a bookstore, jewelry and watch stores, service and retail outlets, take-out counters and many more, are included in the mall's list of tenants.

Big R Supercenter in Sta. Rosa has been attracting crowds because of its complete array of goods and long shopping hours. The mall is also anchored by two other major retail outlets: the Robinsons Department Store (RDS), and Handyman Do-it-Best. Now open at the mall are popular outlets like Lee Jeans, Bench/Her Bench, Rusty Lopez, Picture City Dickies Jeans, Office Warehouse, Adidas, Royal Sporting House, 99 Peso Store, Ferreti, Solo, Photoline, Everything 100, 50% Off Store, ESP Wearhaus, Yunik, Llasa, Kain Pinoy!

FREDERICK Go and Aubrey Miles


BIG R top honchos, chairman emeritus John Gokongwei (second from left), chair James Go (extreme right) cut the ribbon with Mayor Leon Arcillas and wife Josefina.

JG Summit Holdings chair James Go, Cagayan de Oro councilor Michelle Tagarda, Mayor Vicente Emano, Lorenzo Limketkai, Ms Robinsons Aysha Villaroman, and Frederick Go, EVP and COO of Big R Supercenter

New Baguio landmark opens

ABANAO Square was recently opened in Baguio City.

The five-story Abanao Square at the Abanao-Zandueta area houses the National Bookstore, Bench and HerBench boutiques, Freeway, Solo, Adidas, Dickies and Pink Soda. Other establishments include Chowking, Greenwich, Mercury Drug, Dunkin' Donuts, Nike, Do-It-Yourself Store and Mendrez. The mall also has a cell phone and electronics center, Internet café, network gaming, computer equipment and other services.

Abanao Square also has shops for express mail delivery, film processing, salons and watch repair.

BAGUIO Mayor Bernardo Vergara (second from left) and Rep. Mauricio Domogan (third from left) join Abanao Square's VIPs and guests

ASSUNTA de Rossi with (from left) Arthur, Edgar and Macky Coronel

Budget-friendly shopping haunt opens in QC

CIRCLE C recently opened in Quezon City.

The mall features Page, Everything 100 Peso, Cinderella and other bazaars that showcase fresh imports from Asia's shopping districts. Circle C also has a beauty zone, from Ricky Reyes' salon to Let's Face It dermatology center and Going Straight Salon. For the everyday celebrity, Circle C has everything in store, from the newest trends in fashion to the newest styles in beauty.

In need of home improvement? Circle C's Hardware Exchange and Abenson's have fixtures and furnishings. For the tired housewife, Circle C gives more than enough reason to skip cooking time. With fast-food joints lining the entrance, from the Mocha Blend and Chubbie's Grill, to the everyday favorite Shakey's and Chowking, eating-out has never been easier.

Is the laundry taking too much of your time? Worry not as Circle C has a Lavandera Ko waiting in the corner of the free parking lot, so you can enjoy worry-free laundry and free parking all at the same time.

The Circle C is developed by Panorama Development Corp., a sister company of the CMC, and is conveniently located between Visayas and Mindanao Avenues.

MALOU de Venecia, councilor Wilma Sarino, Rep. Chuck Mathay and Therese Coronel Santos

Environmental lessons in Baguio and San Fernando

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

A VISIT to "Good Roots," an agro-forestry project in Pugo, La Union, brought us to two interesting environmental developments in Baguio and San Fernando.

In Baguio, we hiked on an eco-trail through a mini forest of Benguet pines taking shape in Camp John Hay (CJH).

In San Fernando, we were shown a controlled sanitary landfill, probably the only urban sanitary landfill in the country today.

CJH's pine forest has existed for some time but more as a grove than as a forest. Its entry point is at the main gate of the old American-managed camp which cuts through the golf course and Loakan Road. This entrance leads to a two-kilometer trail that is being developed for a many-splendored purpose.

According to Jill Cortes, CJH corporate communication AVP, the eco-trail has been designed for nature trips in the heart of Baguio City, to offset perhaps its fast urbanization. Its opening, Cortes explains, is part of the corporate vision to make CJH a mountain resort with an ecotourism approach.

The plan is way in advance of the new order of President Macapagal Arroyo to rehabilitate Baguio's deteriorating parks such as former tourist attractions Burnham and Wright Parks.

As they go through the eco-trail, hikers can enjoy the lush undergrowths, the chirping birds, particularly the towering pines. There are short steps leading up or down the uneven terrain, and for those who may need to catch their breaths, there are benches at every bend.

A section to hold picnics will also be provided.

The paths will be color-coded, meaning, they will be given names of colors like the White Trail (which already exists), or Blue or Green Trails to identify locations.

Work is concentrated on the Green Trail, which ends at the site of CJH's Marketing and Public Relations office at Ordonio Drive, a building that will be converted into a visitors' center, with a mini library and exhibit area for art and craft displays.

Other plans include booths at the trail where information on the environment and culture of the region will be available.

Landfill

Another project that caught our attention on this particular trip was one that deviates from usual practice. This is a sanitary landfill in an urban rather than rural setting, located as it is in Barangay Mameltac in San Fernando City, La Union.

For 37 years, Mayor Mary Jane Ortega explains, garbage in San Fernando (which became a city in 1998) was thrown in an open dumpsite in a coastal village.

Realizing that this was becoming more and more unhygienic with the passage of time, to the point that the garbage was polluting the air and the water, Mayor Ortega decided to close the old site and transfer garbage disposal operations to a 4.5-has lot in Mameltac, which was converted into an urban sanitary landfill.

With the purchase of an adjacent lot, the landfill is now bigger by an additional 2.7 has.

The new dumpsite is now referred to as a controlled sanitary and engineered landfill. "Controlled" because sanitary technicians are at work through all the stages of disposal, and "engineered" because it has filtering devices to prevent leachates from going directly to the water treatment system.

The average garbage collection here is 400 metric tons a month. We are informed that in the landfill, a backhoe (mechanical excavator) digs an area about 4 meters deep and 4 x 4 meters wide.

When the dump trucks arrive, garbage collected and sorted out by the sanitary technicians (politically correct term for garbage collectors) undergoes a second segregation , this time by waste pickers (politically correct term for scavengers) who, incidentally, are provided with gloves and boots for hygienic purposes.

As soon as the recyclables are sorted out, a bulldozer pushes the remaining garbage into a prepared trench and covers it with soil. No chemicals are used.

To beautify the area, sweet-scented *ilang-ilang* and colorful bougainvillea have been planted along the landfill's borders. The project has already received an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the DENR.

But the landfill's benefits to the city, we are told, do not end there. The barangay captain of Mameltac pays the city government P5,000 a month for exclusive rights to recover recyclable waste which, in turn, he and his wastepickers sell to recycling plants in Manila.

From the look of things, it's a win-win situation all around.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Camp John Hay is building a trail of pine trees, and San Fernando is operating a no-waste, no-pollution dumpsite

Tips for house cleaning

THE NEW Year is the best time to make a clean start. And what better way to do this than to begin with one's home?

Give your home a brand-new feel by removing all traces of holiday dirt and clutter, and redecorating your environment.

When cleaning, always start at the top of the room and work your way down. Bring all your cleaning tools and implements with you to avoid unnecessary trips to the rooms. Look at each room and identify specific tasks. Make a list of cleaning priorities. Here are some tips for cost-efficient and time-saving house cleaning.

Kitchen: For wooden floors, it is necessary to apply floor wax. Just add 1/4 laundry soap to water and mop. Put a cup of vinegar into your mop water—this will give you the shine that you want. Mop vinyl or tile floors with soap and water. Clean out refrigerator and pantry. Deodorize with an open box of baking soda. Change shelf-liners. Use insect repellant liners to keep bugs away.

Bathroom: To clean your toilet bowl, just drop two Alka Seltzer tablets and wait for 1/2 hour before scrubbing and flushing. This will produce a gleaming effect on your lavatory. Cover hard-water stains on bathroom fixtures with a paste of baking soda and vinegar. Then drape with a terry cloth towel and let stand for about an hour. Wipe off, rinse and dry. Keep mirrors without blemish by wiping them with a damp soft rag with rubbing alcohol or window cleaner.

Removing water stains: If the fabric is non-washable, gently scratch off the stain with your fingernail. Still there? Hold a steaming tea kettle over the spot until well dampened. As it dries, rub the stain, working from its outer edges toward the center. Remove hard-water stains from glasses and bottles by rubbing them with steel wool dipped in vinegar.

Closets: Give old clothes and furniture to charity. Organize bed linens in sets. Hang air freshener or a bag of potpourri to keep your clothes fresh smelling.

Doorknobs: Always disinfect doorknobs and telephones. They collect germs from everyone who touches them.

You can also give your home a new look without spending too much by focusing on a few key areas. For example, new curtains can definitely change the look of one's place.

If your place is small, installing mirrors can give a more spacious feel to your home. Add plants to keep the air fresh and to add color and life to your home.

For artificial flowers, put some salt into a plastic bag, add the flowers and shake vigorously. The salt will suck up all the dust and dirt, and make the flowers look as if you just purchased them from a flower shop.

Perk up that old sofa by changing throw pillow covers or simply add pillows.

Use lighting to provide the necessary ambience you want to achieve in a particular area in your house. Just let your imagination and creativity flow.

At Shopwise Supercenters, cleaning or redecorating your home can be so much easier and more affordable with the ongoing Home and Household Fair. Until Feb. 7, Shopwise offers discounts of up to 50-percent off on selected home items, and specials like bundling, buy-one-take-one, and price-offs on household cleaning implements.

Shopwise is located at the Festival Supermall, Filinvest-Alabang, Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz extension in Makati, and Libis.

Shopwise is open daily 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Family Gift Overload 2

Loads of winners, Loads of prizes!

MAJOR PRIZES	METRO MANILA	LUZON	VISAYAS	MINDANAO
P300,000 SM GIFT CERTIFICATE	Nenita B. Padilla M dela Cruz, Pasay City	Renante, Serrano Capas, Tarlac	Rhodelia M. Austero Bito Abuyog, Leyte	Cyrus Jay Montillano Siera Village, Koronadal City
P150,000 SM GIFT CERTIFICATE	Kenneth Antiresto Phase I-A D.D. Navotas	Florencia B. Olalis Florida, Pampanga	Antonio M. Oliano Mandaue City, Cebu	Maila Q. Barillo Brgy.Fatima, Gen. Santos City

WINNERS OF 14" COLOR TV

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LUZON

VISAYAS

MINDANAO

Congratulations to all the winners in Shell's Family Gift Overload 2. Thanks to those who joined. Keep loading up at Shell!

*Winners will be notified via telegram.

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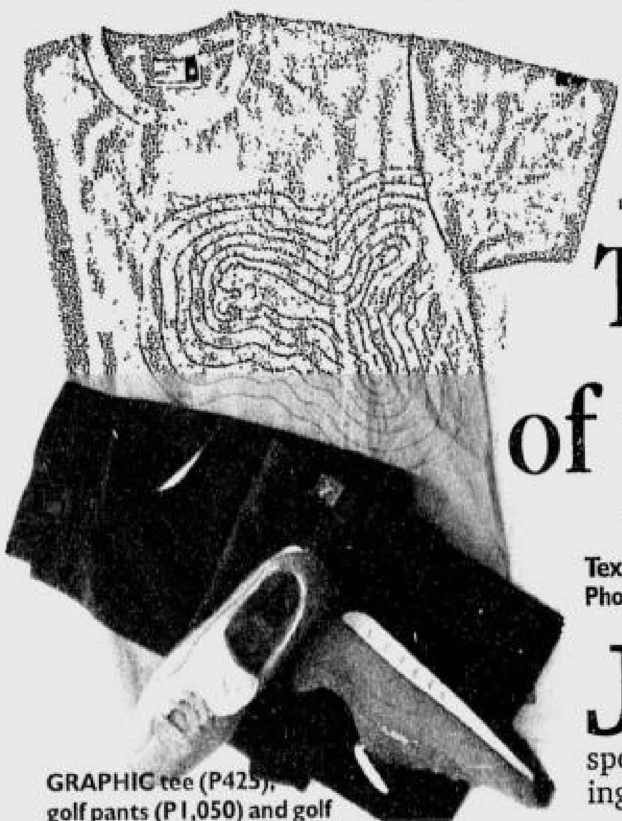
LIFESTYLE



GRAPHIC tee (P425), golf pants (P1,050) and golf shoes (P3,295), all by Puma

The game of fashion

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

JUST as fitness centers are no longer only for hardcore bodybuilders, sports shoes and apparel are no longer limited to athletes and sports enthusiasts. Keeping fit—or at least, dressing up to look the part—has become vital in today's

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good fortune

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  Example: GOAT YEAR 1981
- Text **GOAT <year of birth>** to **2366** to know your fortune for the month.
  Example: GOAT 1979
- Text **FCOOKIE** to **2333** and find out what the Fortune Cookie has to say about your future.

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Text **CHINESE <name> <surname> <year of birth>** to **2310.**
Example: CHINESE JUAN CRUZ 1978

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

NEW Balance sneakers (P2,495), New Balance tee (P375) and Arena board shorts (P665)

LONG-SLEEVE tee (P425), golf pants (P995) and golf shoes (P2,995), all by Puma

The game of fashion

From page F1

active lifestyle. Like a pair of trainers, tracksuits are now de rigueur in everyone's wardrobe. So makers of sporting goods have expanded their focus: Style has become just as crucial as performance.

The choice of sport, however, is as varied as the number of sporting goods stores around. You pick the sweats from one store, then hop on to the next shop for the shoe du jour, then still to another store for the gym bag, and so on—shopping for the equipment is almost as grueling as playing the sport. So where does the sports buff, the dilettante and everyone in-between go?

One-stop shop

One store chain claims to have all the answers. With 15 outlets nationwide, Planet Sports claims it has the widest selection of sports apparel, footwear, accessories and equipment.

A one-stop shop for sporting and casual needs, Planet Sports houses favorite brands like Nike and Adidas for hardcourt heroes and wannabes, gym habitués and the men and women on the street who just have to have their share of the latest from the makers of the Swoosh and the three stripes.

The younger and hipper crowd can always opt for Guess sneakers in hot, hot, hot materials and designs.

Less-hyped labels like Puma and New Balance are fast catching up. Puma, which in the past, has shod and clothed sports greats like Pelé and Boris Becker, is making its presence felt with its cool, retro-style shoes. An expert in engineered running shoes, New Balance footwear, meanwhile, has come out with more styles. The shoes come in various widths. Both brands also offer a range of apparel and accessories.

For serious swimmers, Planet Sports carries Arena engineered swimwear, the brand that's favored even by the world's top swimmers. The line also has fitness, triathlon and cross-training apparel.

Putting-green mainstays, young and old alike, have the Greg Norman and US Kids Golf lines.

So there: Who's to say shopping for the gear isn't as much fun as playing the game?

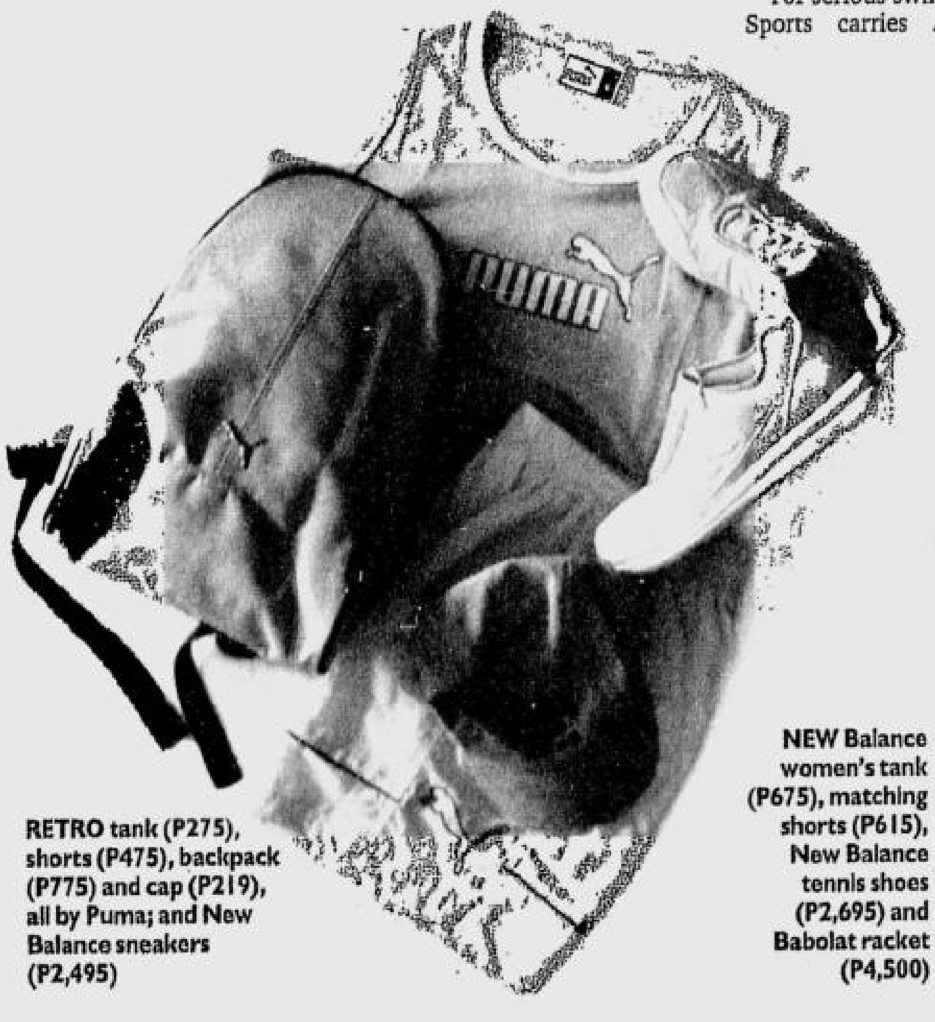
PLANET SPORTS HAS OUTLETS IN METRO MANILA, CEBU, ILOILO, NAGA, LOS BAÑOS, PAMPANGA AND TARLAC. IT ALSO OPERATES THE ATHLETE'S FOOT, NIKE STADIUM, AND THE CONCEPT SHOPS OF NEW BALANCE, PUMA AND ARENA.

In sports, style counts as much as the performance

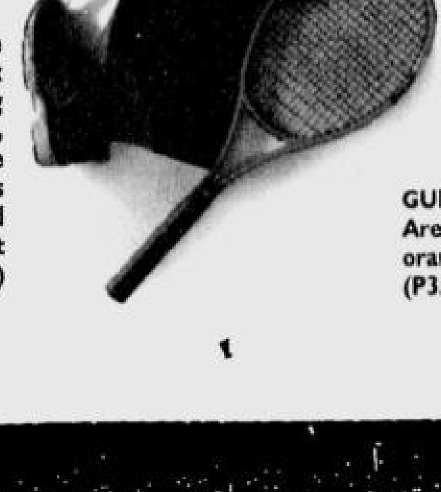
WARM-UP jacket (P1,295), board shorts (P795) and backpack (P715), all by Arena; and Guess suede sneakers (P3,055)

ARENA two-piece swimwear (P1,695) and Guess thongs (P1,395)

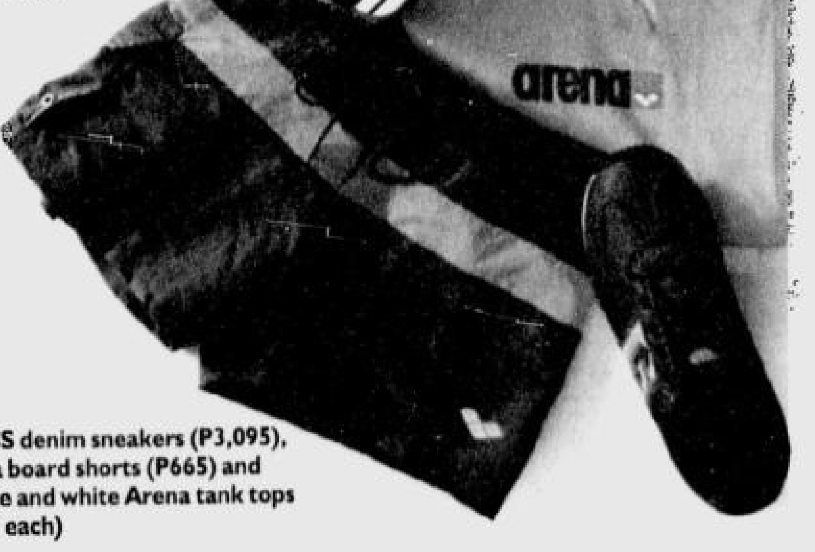
SUEDE retro sneakers (P1,595), racerback tank (P475) and woven shorts (P550), all by Puma



RETRO tank (P275), shorts (P475), backpack (P775) and cap (P219), all by Puma; and New Balance sneakers (P2,495)



NEW Balance women's tank (P675), matching shorts (P615), New Balance tennis shoes (P2,695) and Babolat racket (P4,500)



GUESS denim sneakers (P3,095), Arena board shorts (P665) and orange and white Arena tank tops (P355 each)

Collection inspired by Hellenic world of athletics

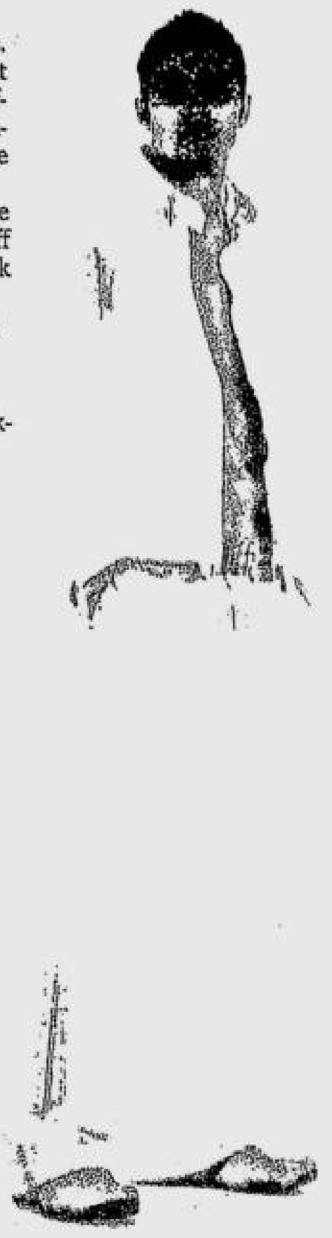
INSPIRED by the glorious days of the Olympics in Greece but with surprising touches of Indian elements, Diesel has undertaken a look based on an imaginary Olympic event.

The Spring/Summer 2003 Collection takes inspiration from the Hellenic world of athletics, developed with a retro concept of typical European sports in the '20s and '30s.

Greek lettering and numbers are chariots of fiery fashion. Prints and applications are hidden by blending in with the background colors. Yarn dyed shirts are bleached at the hem to give a "chic antique" effect, and used-looking white denim is paired with bleached Prince of Wales twill.

In pure classic-Greek style, the strongest color is white, playing off muted tones of ecru, vintage pink and blue.

Diesel is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with stores located at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center and Robinsons Galleria.



Gourdo's
openkitchen

Schedule of Cooking and Baking Classes

February 4 Tuesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Edible Gifts – P2,500 inclusive of icing, cake and cookies
* Learn to make small fondant gift cakes with bows and lollipop cookies.

February 5 Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Chocolate Candymaking – P2,500 inclusive of ingredients and Wilton Candy Book
* Make all kinds of chocolate candies; molded chocolate, truffles, marbled chocolate, lollipops and dipped treats perfect for Valentines gifts!

February 11 and 12 Tuesday and Wednesday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Wilton Method of Cake Decorating – Course 1
P5,000 inclusive of icings, cakes, Wilton Course Book and Ceritificate
*Learn the basic of cake decorating using buttercream icing and variety of tips. Students bring home cake topped with roses, buds and vines.

February 18 and 19 Tuesday and Wednesday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Wilton Advanced Cake Decorating and More – Course 2
P5,000 inclusive of icings, cakes, Wilton Course Book and Certificate
*Learn complicated flowers and additional borders using royal icing. Students bring home cake covered of basketweave and assorted flowers.

February 24 Tuesday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Baking for Beginners – P2,500 inclusive of ingredients
*Learn the basic techniques for cakes, pastry, yeast dough, and refrigerated cookie dough; buttercake with chocolate icing; apple pie and cinnamon rolls.

February 25 Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Bread Baking, P2,500 inclusive of ingredients
*Learn ensaymada, Swedish tea ring, assorted dinner rolls, foccaccia and pizza crust.

February 1, 8 and 22 Saturday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Tiny Kitchen for ages 8 to 19 years old – P1,000 per session inclusive of ingredients
*Kids get to make one main dish, side dish, dessert and drink per session and bring the food home.

Class instructor is Vicky Veloso-Barrera, Wilton Certified instructor and author of the popular cookbook for kids, Tiny Kitchen. All classes use the hands-on approach and limited to only 10 students. For more details call Vicky at 410-2279 or 0916-5165035 or Mitch at 887-0150. Classes are held at Gourdo's Open Kitchen at The Fort Entertainment Complex, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Metro Manila.

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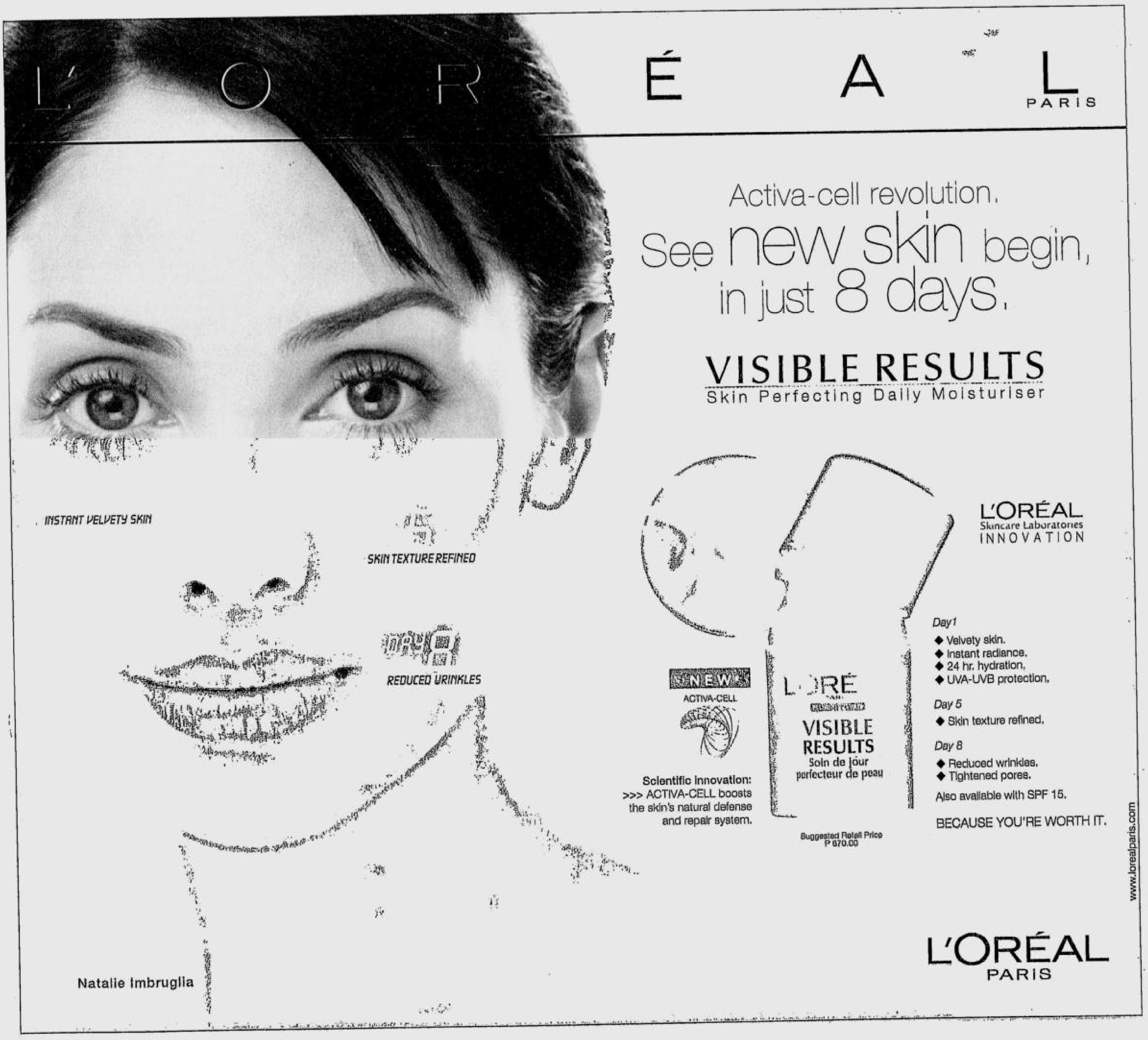

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FASHION ADVICE

# of hip-huggers and model wannabes

MAIDENFORM

Invest in hip-huggers or low-waist panties if you wear low-rise jeans and trousers

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

WHENEVER I wear low-cut jeans or pants, my underwear sticks out when I sit or bend. It gets so embarrassing. Do you know where I can buy low-rise panties that are comfortable and affordable enough?

Underwear sightings are absolute turnoffs, unless you want to go trendy and wear innerwear as outerwear. This doesn't seem to be your aim, though, which in my opinion is a good decision on your part. So, it's time to start investing in hip-huggers or low-waist panties that will not show each time you wear your fashionable low-rise jeans and trousers.

A few years back, it was almost impossible to find such styles of underwear in the local market. I often had to order mine from the United States because Victoria's Secret, a very popular US-based lingerie brand, was one of the first few brands that came out with super low-waist thongs and panties.

Today, you can find such panty styles from several brands and a good selection of stores in Manila. For starters, Marks and Spencer's offers underwear that fall right around the first hip. They come in various colors and different materials like cotton, lace and silk. The problem is, these may not be low enough for your extra low-cut pants.

In which case, I suggest that you try P.U.B. on the cinema level of the Power Plant mall. The specialty boutique carries various brands of underwear such as Victoria's Secret, Joe Boxer and Tommy Hilfiger. They have a good selection of very low-cut panties and thongs with fun, colorful designs.

For more variety, you can also try Topshop in Shangri-La Plaza and most Robinsons malls. They carry reasonably priced boy-leg, extra-low cut panties that are extremely comfortable and kitschy. But if you want to stick to classics, go for Natori in Rustan's Department Store or Calvin Klein in the Power Plant mall, Shangri-La Plaza and Glorietta. And for super affordable pairs, try the different bazaars and *tiangges* (flea markets). You can normally find one-size-fits-all cotton low-rise underwear with trendy designs for only fifty pesos a pair.

UNDERCOLORS of Benetton

MAIDENFORM

I'M 16 years old, 5'7" tall, still growing and, according to my friends, quite pretty. Everyone always asks me if I'm a model, which makes me think that maybe I can really be one. It seems like such a glamorous and exciting job that just might give me the opportunity to earn money, travel and become famous. What should I do to launch my career as a model?

Before you embark on a modeling career, you must first determine what kind of model you would like to be. You see, there are different kinds of models: The commercial models, the extra-beautiful women or girl-next-door types you see on TV and print ads pitching this shampoo or that skin whitening lotion; the fashion model, those hanger-thin wisps of women you see in fashion editorials and watch during fashion shows; and the commercial and fashion model, lucky dames like Phoemela Barranda and Tweetie de Leon, who not only have the height and body but also an angelic face.

Since you are already 5'7" tall and blessed with a pretty face, you would most probably qualify for both commercial and fashion modeling. Why don't you try approaching the different talent agencies in town? There are several good ones like Élan, Cal Carrie's, Society Models, to name a few, who can assess if you really have what it takes to make it in the modeling world. They can also provide the proper exposure by sending you to different castings and go-sees (auditions) and introducing you to key industry people.

If you are too shy to do this, it's a good idea to hang out where the fashion crowd hangs out. They will definitely be around during fashion shows and events so why not attend these? Or if you are confident and gutsy enough, why not join the countless model searches that have produced the likes of Marina Benipayo, Patty Betita and Verns Buckley?

Another way to enter the fashion industry is by joining the Professional Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP), a group of top fashion and commercial models, who manage their own careers with the help of the association. Unfortunately, the group has screenings only once a year and some-

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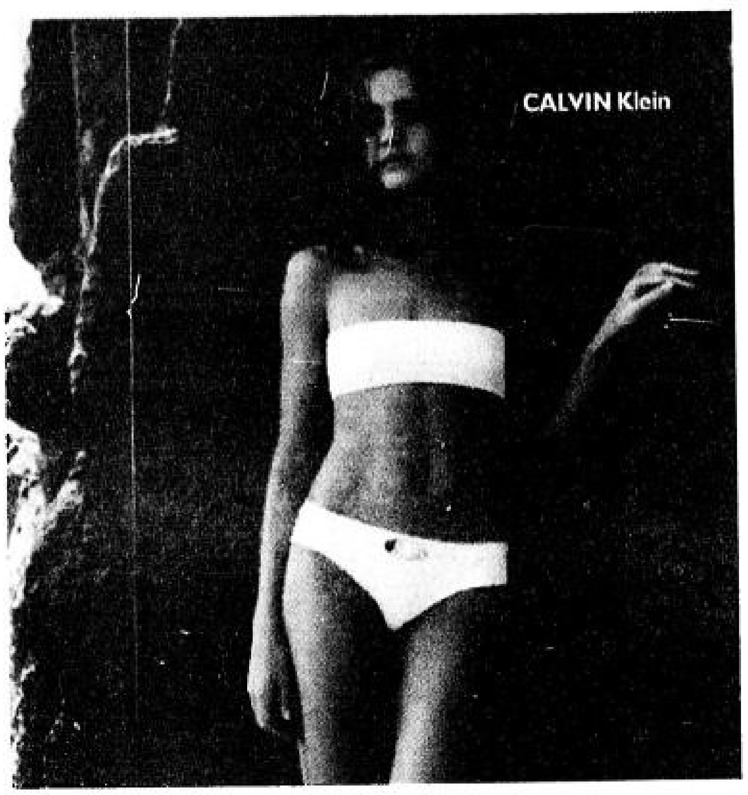


CALVIN Klein

times by invitation. In any case, watch out for their announcements as joining the group is a surefire way of getting noticed.

There's no telling when or how you might be discovered. Some present-day supermodels were discovered in the oddest places. Ramp superstar and actress Wilma Doesnt was sweeping the lawn of her front yard in Cavite when director Robby Carmona spotted her. Top fashion model Jo Ann Bitagcol was recruited by designer Peter Lim and stylist Jay Lozada while eating *pancit* in a *carinderia* in Pampanga.

Bookers, directors, designers and other industry people are constantly on the lookout for fresh faces, going as far as scouring the halls of educational institutions for potential finds. If you have that elusive X-factor, it's just a matter of time so don't worry your pretty head off.

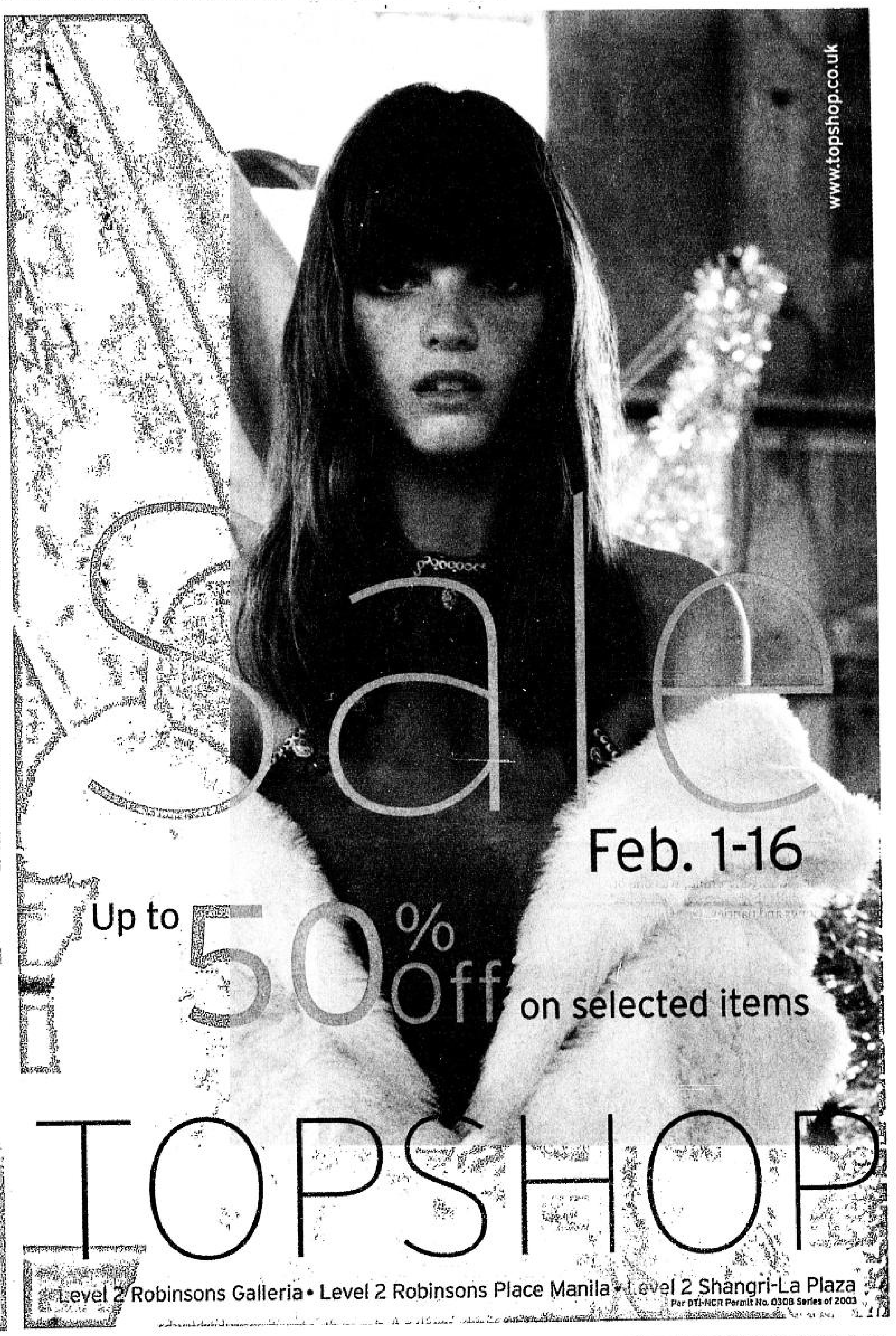
While waiting for your date with destiny, start preparing certain tools of the trade like a 5x7" head shot and body shot that you can give out to agencies and directors. This way, when they are casting for important projects, they will have something to refer to and remember you by. Eventually, your aim is to put together a portfolio (a 5x7" or 8x10" book of photographs that shows your recent works and best shots) and a set card (a 5x7" composite of your head shot and best work), which you can show prospective clients.

You can also prepare yourself by reading magazines and books, watching fashion shows, studying your angles in the mirror and taking videos of yourself (with the help of an objective friend, of course!). You can even join basic modeling workshops like those offered by Trumpets Playshop.

A career in modeling can definitely be glamorous and exciting. But remember that just like any other job, it entails discipline, hard work, know-how and professionalism. And although it is not a long-term career, don't take it for granted as it can be very lucrative and can even be a stepping-stone to more permanent endeavors. So, the best advice I can give you is to continuously nurture your mind and other aspects of your being and never to neglect your education while pursuing your supermodel dreams.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

TRIUMPH



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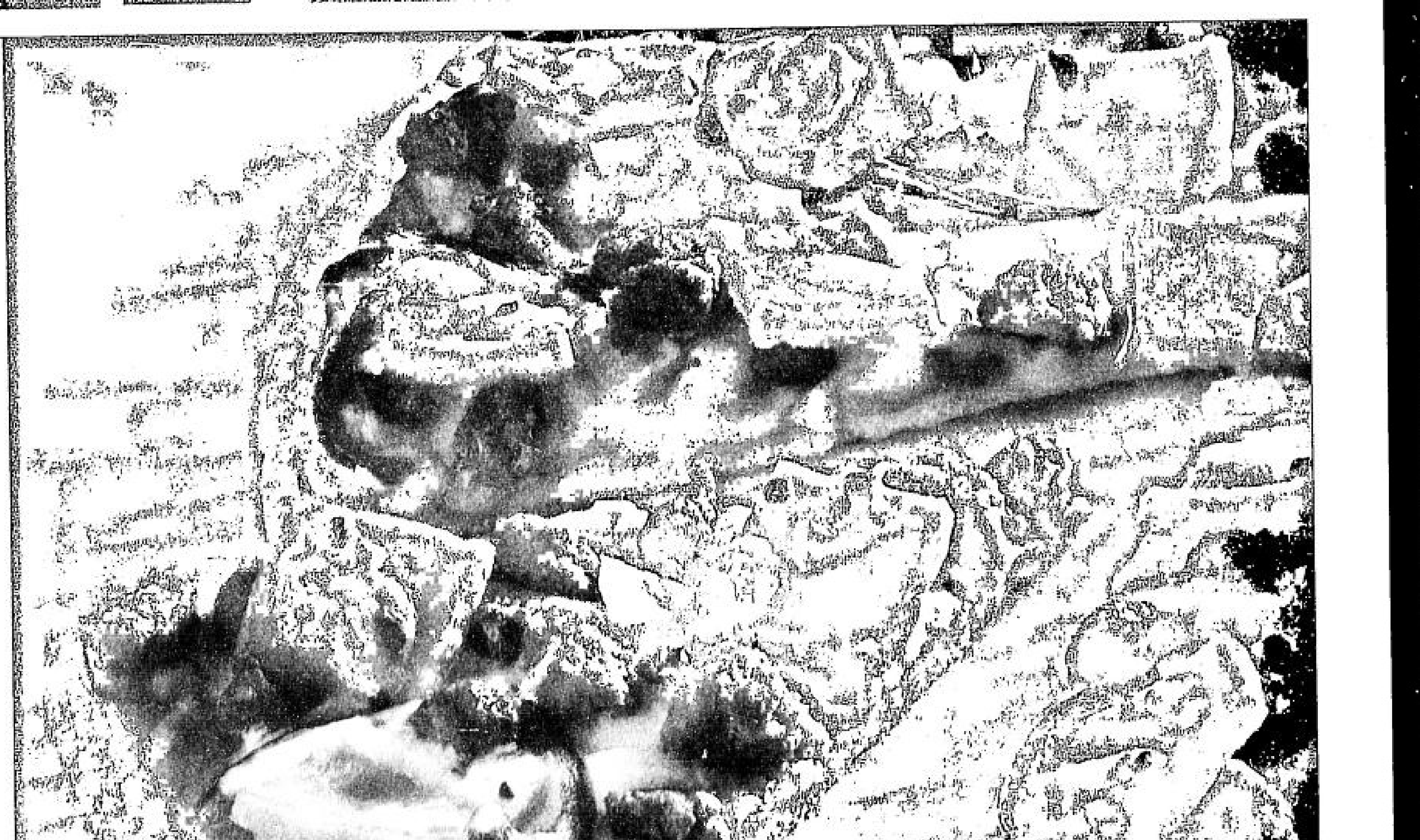
just got better.

Thin is definitely in! Introducing a new addition to the Greenwich pizza menu -- New Greenwich Crispy Thins. Your favorite pizzas made thinner so every bite is crispier and toppings are tastier. Make it thin. Make it Greenwich.

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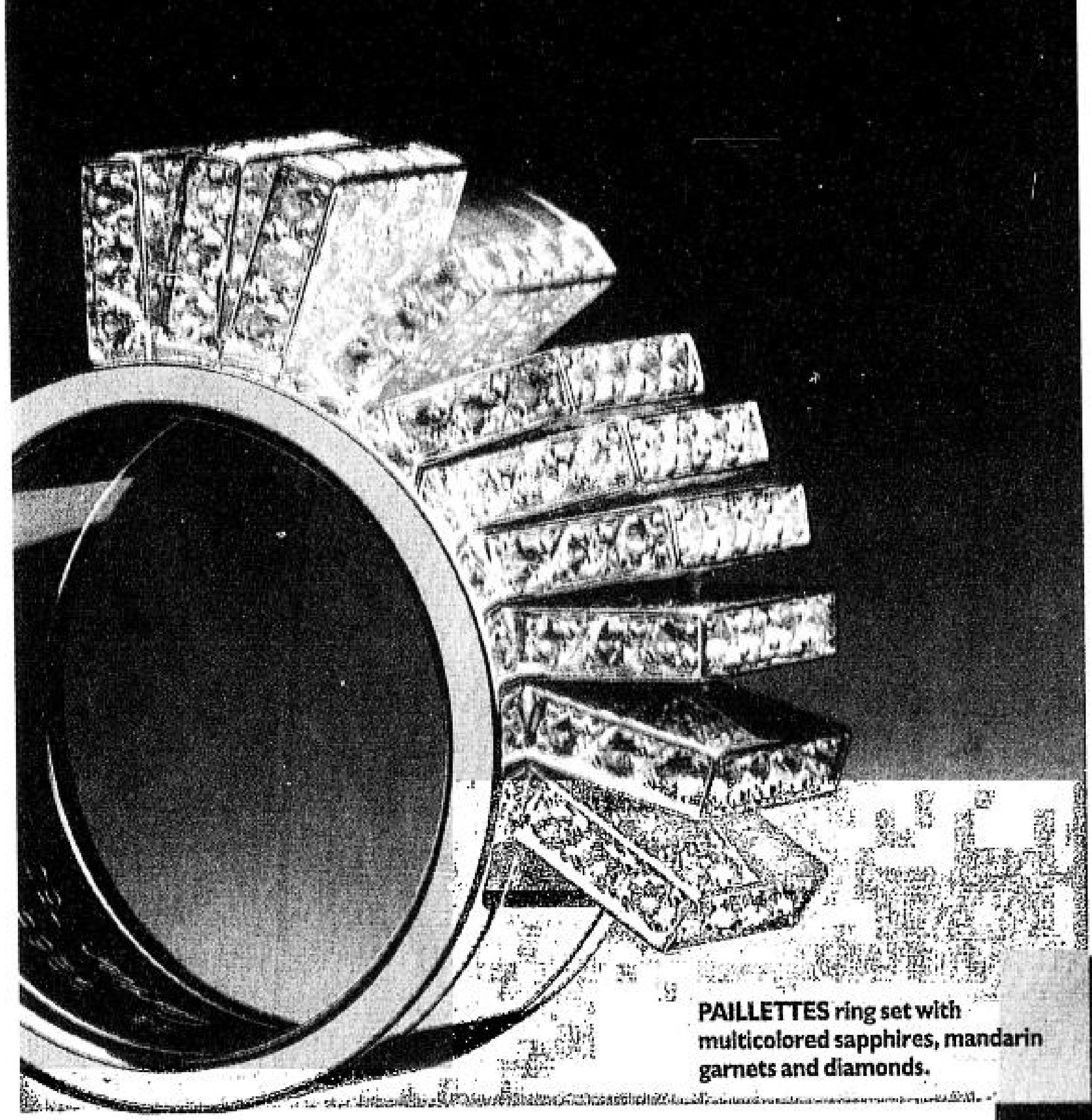
Colorful harmony of stones



PAILLETTES ring set with multicolored sapphires, mandarin garnets and diamonds.

RUSTAN'S has launched Collection Delices de Cartier, which features exquisite jewelry pieces that play on the harmony of colored stones.

Composed of four groups, the Collection Delices de Cartier's signature piece is the Meli Melo necklace, which uses a platinum wire to join colored stones cut in different ways to form a playful abstract piece that drapes the neck.

The Méli Mélo group also includes rings, necklaces and a brooch using pink tourmalines, mandarin garnets, blue and pink sapphires and diamonds.

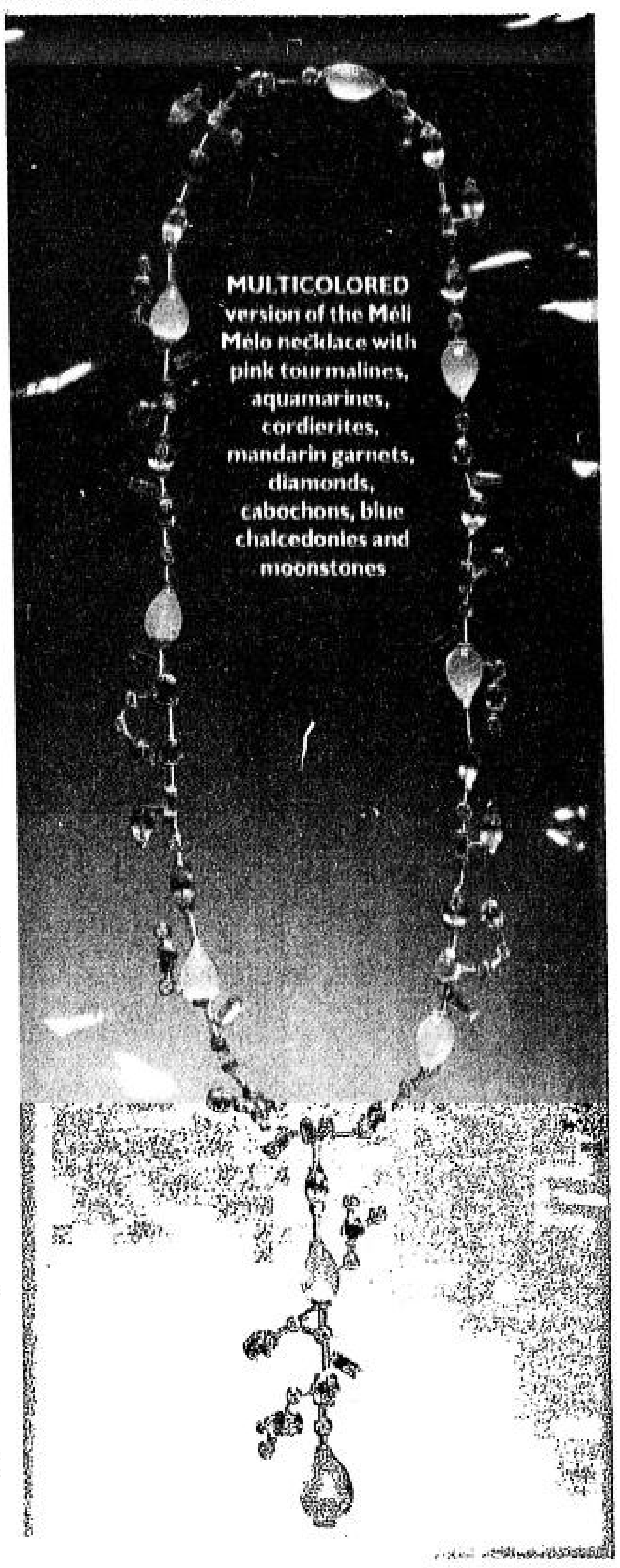
The Diadéa collection is inspired by a neckpiece Cartier created for the Russian imperial family in 1911. The earrings, necklaces and bracelets feature diamond pieces grouped together in the form of a leaf enclosed by either white or yellow gold. The pieces move with the wearer's movements as they are arranged in staggered rows on an invisible pivot.

Paillettes includes bracelets and rings embellished with squares of gold and stones that also glitter and dance with movement.

The mobile Paillettes ring has wide flat tabs embellished with yellow, pink, blue and pale green sapphires as well as mandarin gamete and diamonds that unfurl a trail of brilliance. The bracelet plays on the contrast of round stones embedded on square grids, giving off elegance.

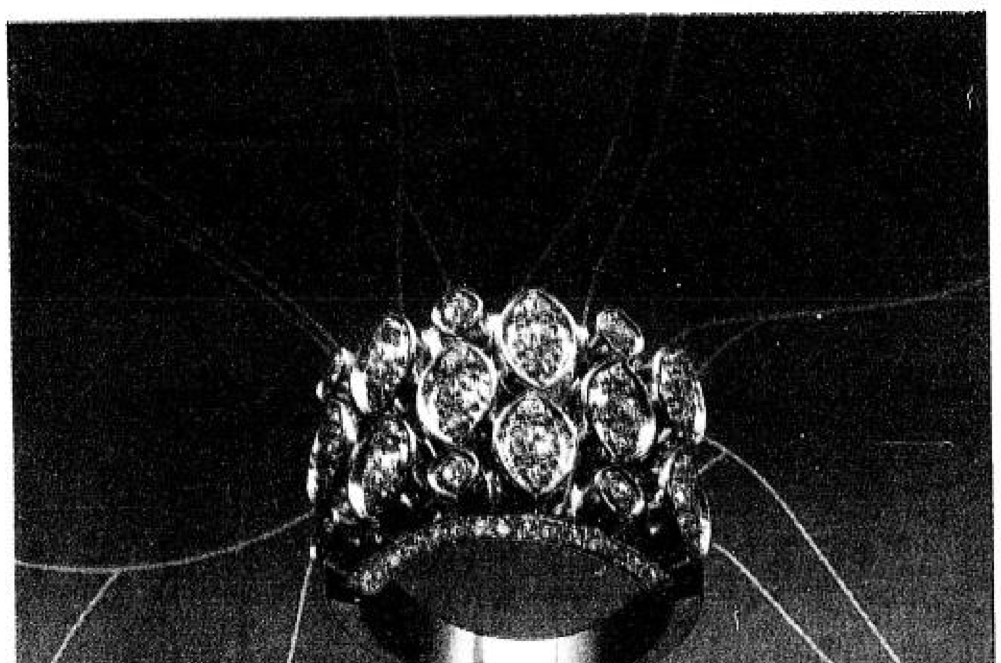
Pearls highlight the So Pretty de Cartier group. Regular and oversized pearls are made into rings and necklaces that break the rules of balanced composition. The round pearls hang on round or square chains the length of which can be adjusted using a diamond embellished clasp that holds on to the chain.

So Pretty de Cartier also includes a huge black pearl set precariously on a gold ring decorated by pink sapphires and diamonds.

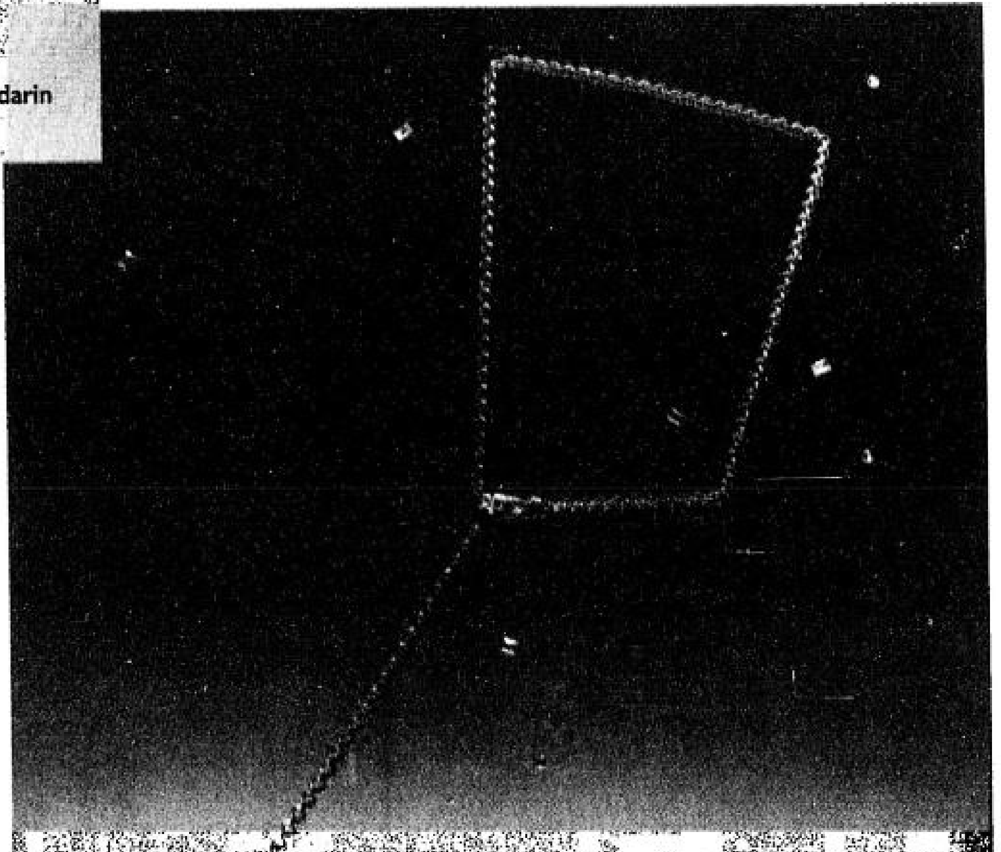


MULTICOLORED version of the Méli Mélo necklace with pink tourmalines, aquamarines, cordierites, mandarin garnets, diamonds, cabochons, blue chalcedonies and moonstones

Cartier's new line pits brilliant stones against one another to create exquisite beauty



YELLOW gold Diadéa ring scattered with leaf motifs set with diamonds



SO Pretty de Cartier necklace made of a double-faceted chain in white gold, with pearls and a diamond in its clasp.

Glamorous women's bags for fall/winter

FOR FALL/WINTER 2002-2003, the Louis Vuitton leather goods collection weds the most unexpected shapes with the glossiest materials.

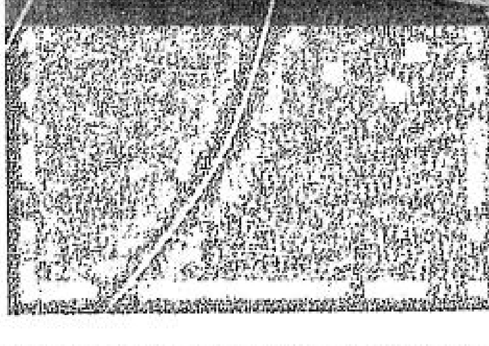
With its fine gold-tone chain used as handle and multiple pockets, the McKenna clutch bag adds a touch of glamour to this collection. Derived from the catwalk styles, the McKenna features luxury details, combining glossy satin with metal fittings. The back of the satin, featuring a subtle combination of gold and silver and a play on the Monogram initials and flowers, is used to accentuate the bag's exceptional glamour.

The Satin Monogram makes its appearance in red for this new season. The ultimate refined material, satin is combined with metallic fibers, resulting in a subtly glossy, tone-on-tone Monogram. Little Papillon is the miniature version of the Papillon bag created by Henri Vuitton in 1966. The two narrow handles are reminiscent of a butterfly's wings and give an ultra-chic effect on the shoulder. Little Boulogne is also a miniature version of another model. It features a short strap and is worn on the shoulder. The Little Papillon and the Little Boulogne are definitely two essential evening bags that are thoroughly modern featuring the ultimate in refinement.

The Monogram mesh bag is a certified veritable jewel for the figure.

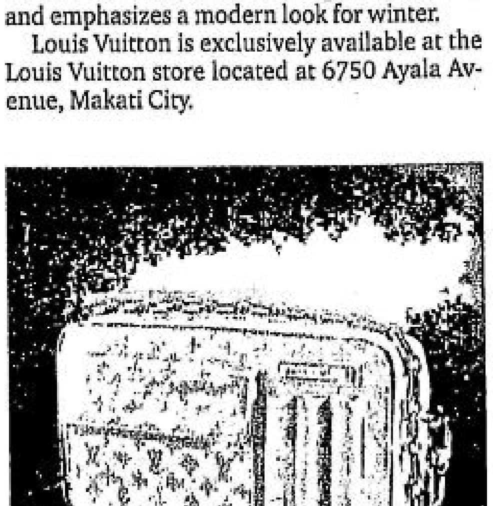
Printed with the Monogram design, the chain moulds itself to the shape of the body and emphasizes a modern look for winter.

Louis Vuitton is exclusively available at the Louis Vuitton store located at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.



LITTLE Papillon

MONOGRAM mesh bag



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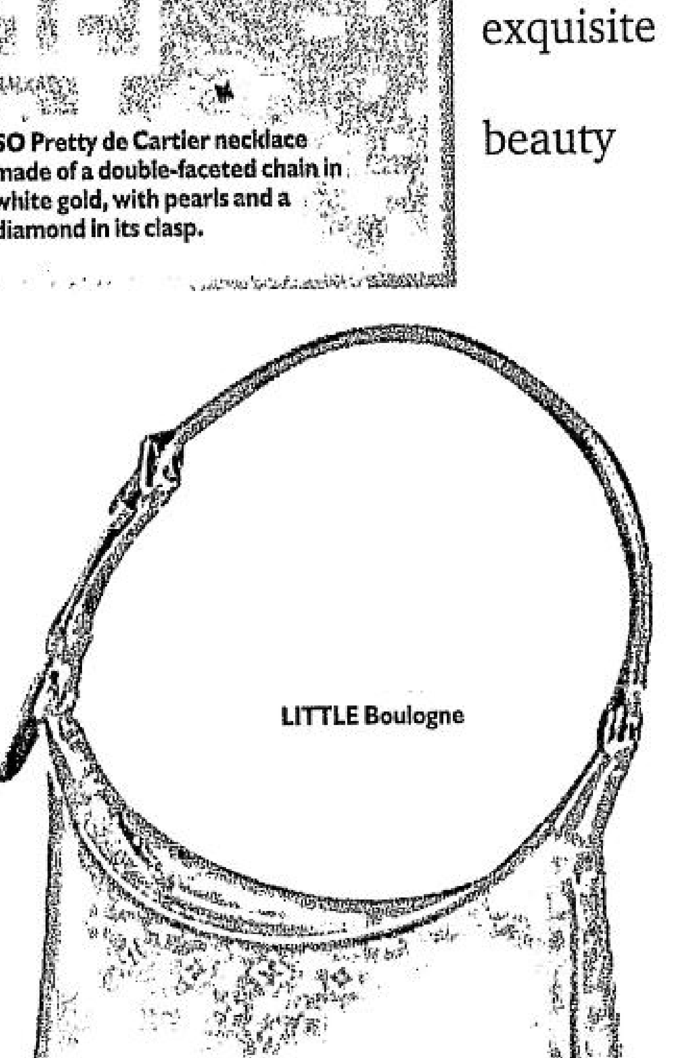
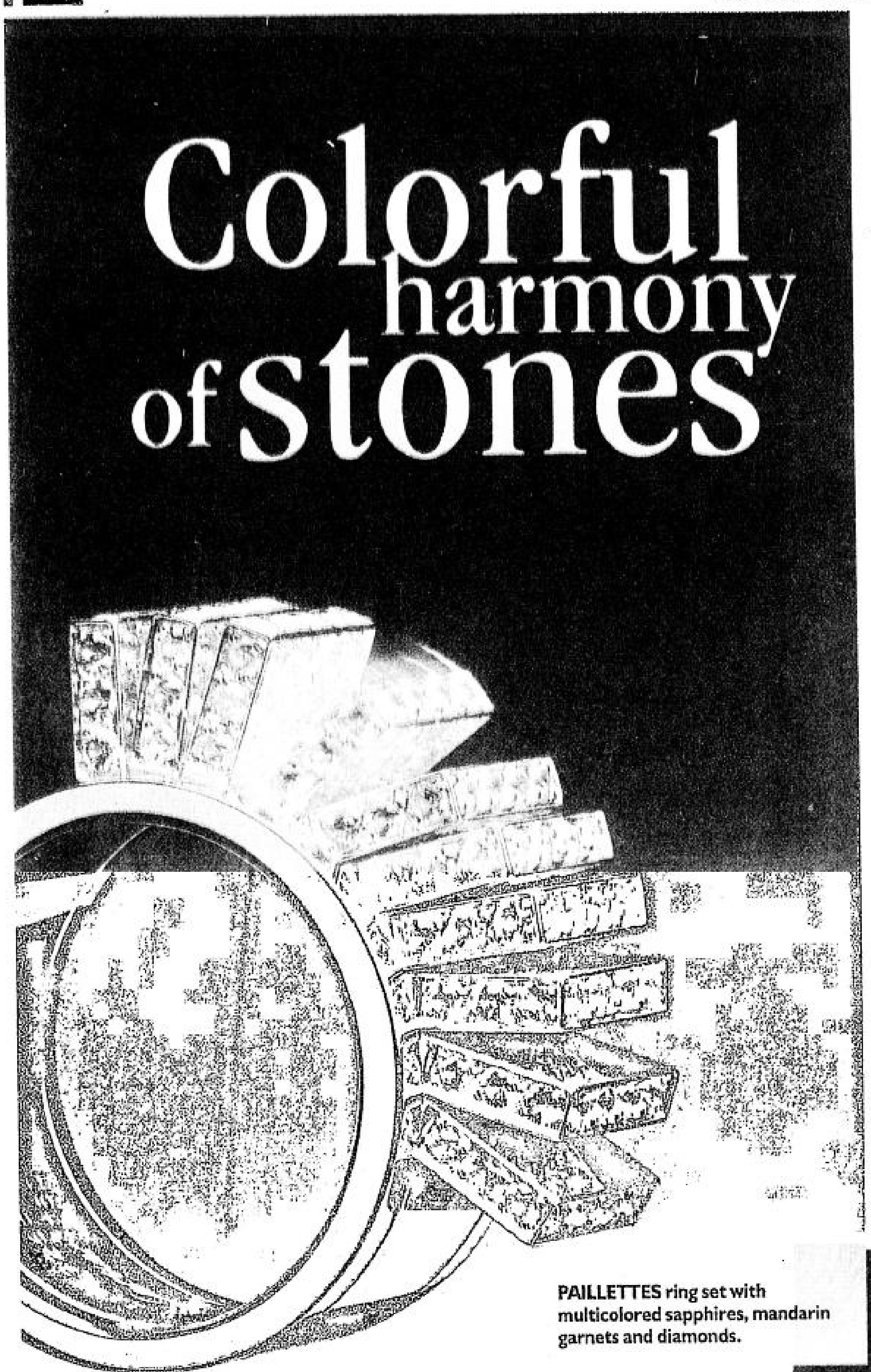


LITTLE Boulogne

Colorful harmony of stones



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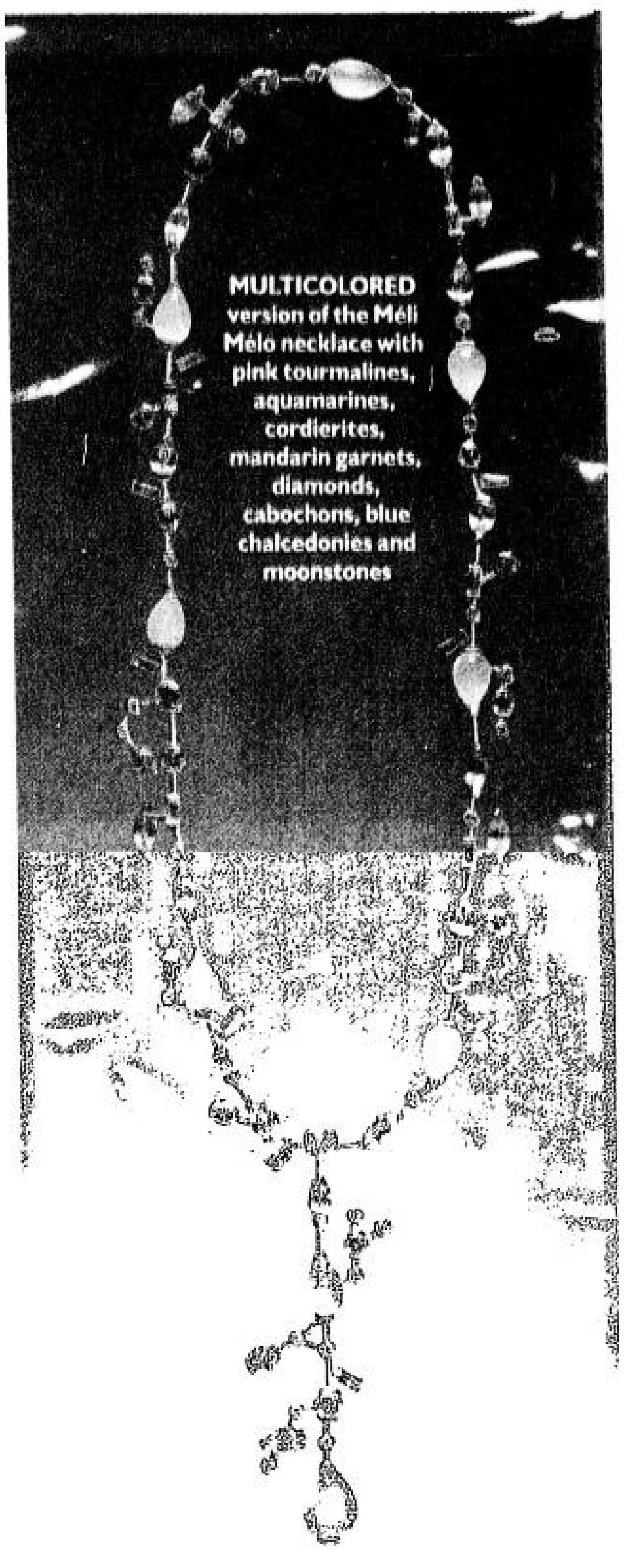
The Diadéa collection is inspired by a neckpiece Cartier created for the Russian imperial family in 1911. The earrings, necklaces and bracelets feature diamond pieces grouped together in the form of a leaf enclosed by either white or yellow gold. The pieces move with the wearer's movements as they are arranged in staggered rows on an invisible pivot.

Paillettes includes bracelets and rings embellished with squares of gold and stones that also glitter and dance with movement.

The mobile Paillettes ring has wide flat tabs embellished with yellow, pink, blue and pale green sapphires as well as mandarin garnete and diamonds that unfurl a trail of brilliance. The bracelet plays on the contrast of round stones embedded on square grids, giving off elegance.

Pearls highlight the So Pretty de Cartier group. Regular and oversized pearls are made into rings and necklaces that break the rules of balanced composition. The round pearls hang on round or square chains the length of which can be adjusted using a diamond embellished clasp that holds on to the chain.

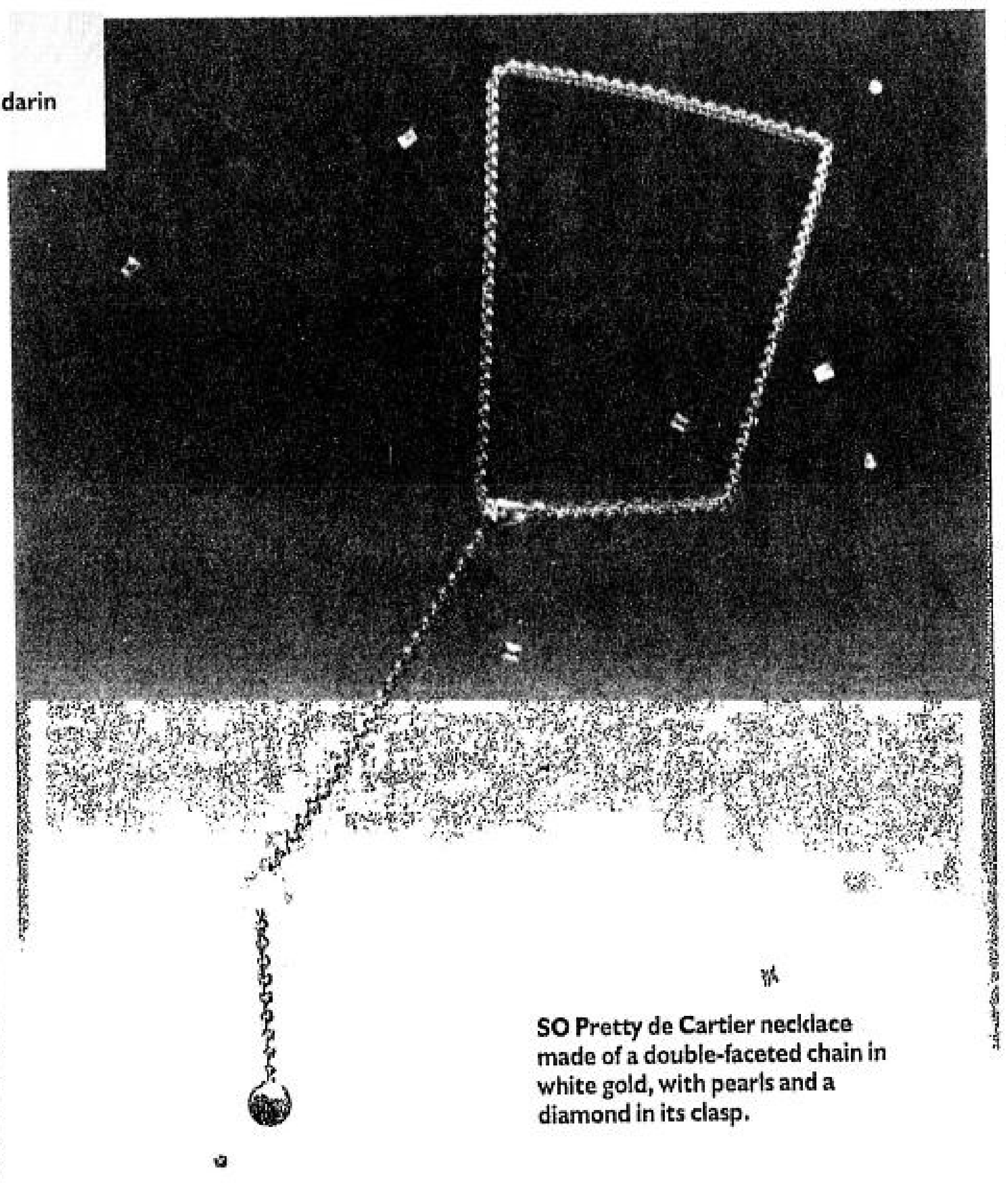
So Pretty de Cartier also includes a huge black pearl set precariously on a gold ring decorated by pink sapphires and diamonds.



MULTICOLORED version of the Méli Mélo necklace with pink tourmalines, aquamarines, cordierites, mandarin garnets, diamonds, cabochons, blue chalcedonies and moonstones

Cartier's new line pits brilliant stones against one another to create exquisite beauty

YELLOW gold Diadéa ring scattered with leaf motifs set with diamonds



SO Pretty de Cartier necklace made of a double-faceted chain in white gold, with pearls and a diamond in its clasp.

Glamorous women's bags for fall/winter

FOR FALL/WINTER 2002-2003, the Louis Vuitton leather goods collection weds the most unexpected shapes with the glossiest materials.

With its fine gold-tone chain used as handle and multiple pockets, the McKenna clutch bag adds a touch of glamour to this collection. Derived from the catwalk styles, the McKenna features luxury details, combining glossy satin with metal fittings. The back of the satin, featuring a subtle combination of gold and silver and a play on the Monogram initials and flowers, is used to accentuate the bag's exceptional glamour.

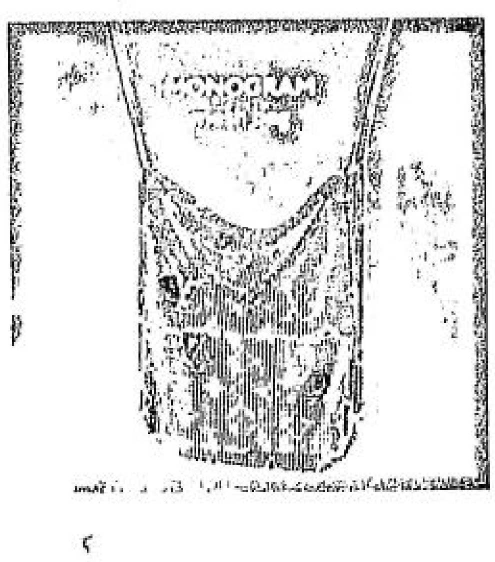
The Satin Monogram makes its appearance in red for this new season. The ultimate refined material, satin is combined with metallic fibers, resulting in a subtly glossy, tone-on-tone Monogram. Little Papillon is the miniature version of the Papillon bag created by Henri Vuitton in 1966. The two narrow handles are reminiscent of a butterfly's wings and give an ultra-chic effect on the shoulder. Little Boulogne is als[illegible] version of [illegible]er model. It [illegible] on the [illegible] and [illegible] Little Boulogne are definitely two essential evening bags that are thoroughly modern featuring the ultimate in refinement.

The Monogram mesh bag is a certified veritable jewel for the figure.

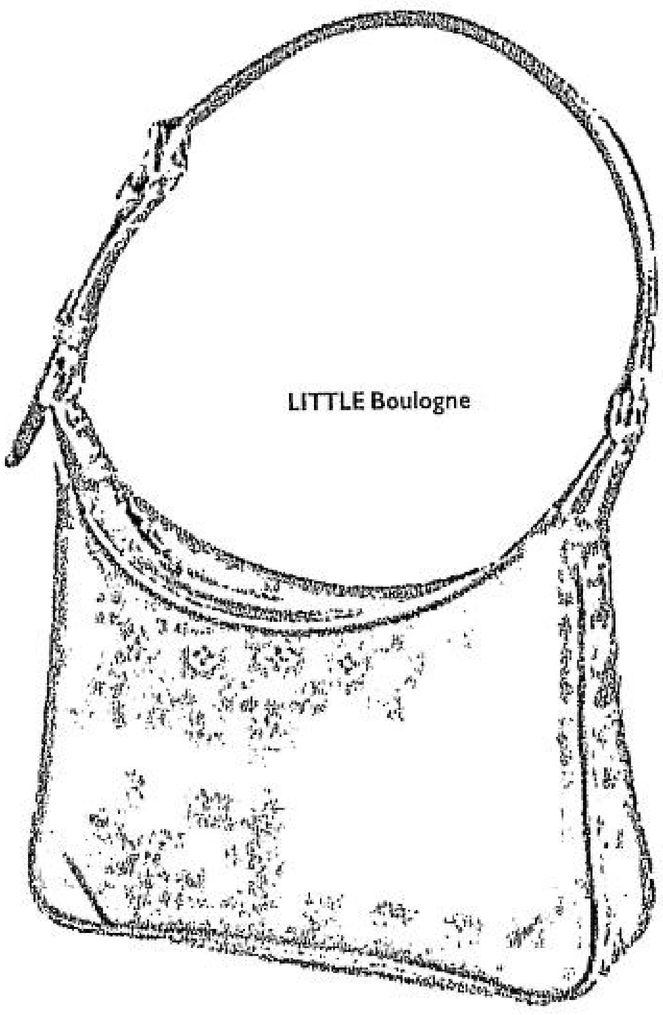
Printed with the Monogram design, the chain moulds itself to the shape of the body and emphasizes a modern look for winter.

Louis Vuitton is exclusively available at the Louis Vuitton store located at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

LITTLE Papillon



MCKENNA Monogram Shine



LITTLE Boulogne

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

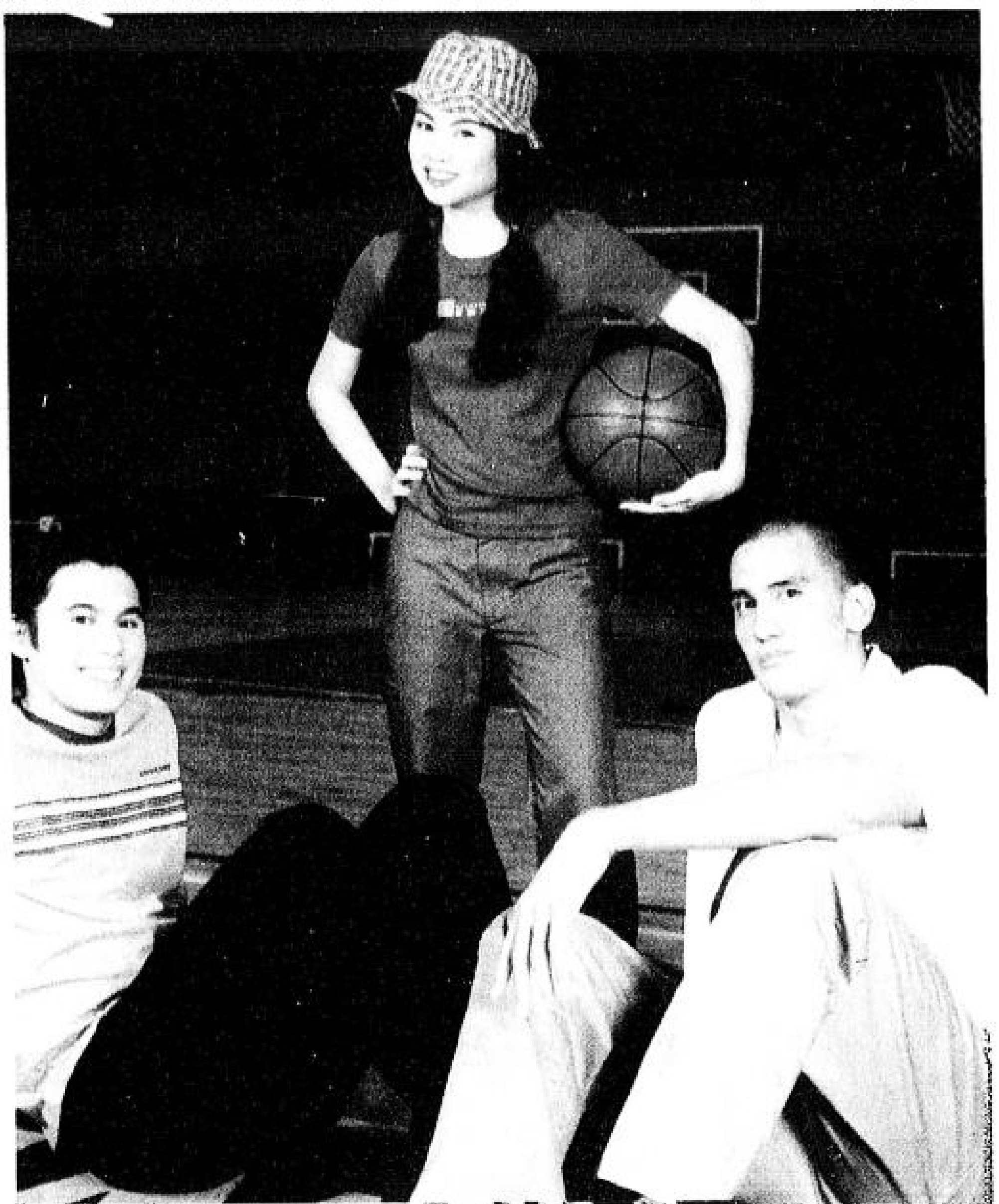
In the spirit of comfort and fun

ESPRIT has crafted an image of timelessness. For Spring-Summer 2003, it re-establishes itself as a purveyor of understated comfort with its men's spring/summer collection.

Classic logo tees and polos in plaid and solid varieties can take the wearer from game-time to downtime with just a few snaps of a button.

Even girls can join the fun. It's a level playing field when it comes to fashion.

ONE OF THE BOYS. On Mon: Checkered long-sleeved shirt in red, classic cut denims in black; on Chris: Ribbed long-sleeved tee in white and grey, waxed denim skirt, red pageboy cap, stylist's own



COURTSIDE APPEAL. On Mon: Jersey short-sleeved tee in iron grey; classic black denims; on Chris: Logo tee; sanded oxford pants in military green, fisherman's hat, stylist's own; on Rich: White short-sleeved polo, logo tee in light peach; heavy twill pants

PHOTOS:
XANDER ANGELES
MAKE-UP:
BARNEY AGUILAR
MODELS:
MON TIOSECO,
MARCO BENITEZ,
RICH ALVAREZ,
JOY DEL ROSARIO
AND CHRIS YAM
LOCATION:
MORO LORENZO
GYM,
ATENEO DE MANILA
UNIVERSITY

STAR. On Rich: Dublin checked shirt, grey logo tee; on Marco: Esprit logo tee; on Mon: Short-sleeved polo in ebony, red logo tee; on Chris: Ribbed long-sleeved tee in khaki and black; on Joy: Red short-sleeved polo, embossed logo tee in black

DOWNTIME DRESSING. On Rich: Dublin checked shirt in sheepskin, grey logo tee, heavy twill pants; on Chris: Burgundy logo tee, faded corduroy pants in khaki; on Marco: Esprit logo tee, heavy twill pants, black ski cap, stylist's own

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Precious jewels of beauty

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

EVERY man wants to make his significant other feel like a queen, and what woman would object? Remember the scenes in "Pretty Woman," when Richard Gere presents Julia with a ruby necklace, and "Sweet Home Alabama" when Patrick Dempsey proposes to Reese Witherspoon in Tiffany's and makes her choose a ring? Well, if you can't have jewelry, beauty products are as close to precious stones as you can get.

Clarins Precious Jewels Collection, exclusive at Rustan's. One Valentine box contains four makeup items that resemble gems. Since amethyst, the semiprecious birthstone of those born in February, is purple, I find it most timely for the gift bag. If your wife or girlfriend is conservative, the alternative option is a safer bet.

- **Face powder**—ensures that makeup looks perfect during the day on to evening. The two color choices are Light Topaz and Light Amber. I chose Topaz as it was the paler gold shade. Not limited to the face, I apply this on my upper chest and shoulders. Its slight shimmer deflects from lines and makes one's face seem more aglow.
- **Eye colors**—contain pearl particles that allow for both matte and brilliant effect. The colors are Amethyst, which is flattering to our Asian coloring, and Rose Quartz, which brightens the eyes and may also be used as blush. I chose Amethyst because it's a flattering eyeliner and complemented my dark eyes as shadow. Note: Both the eye shadow and face powder were designed to look like uncut gems just mined, and the compact was made to mimic a jewelry case as each lid is decorated with a jewel-like hologram edged in gold
- **Color gloss**—six amazing shades to give that jewel-like sparkle. It's up to you to choose which color you would like to see your woman in. A conservative girl will be safe with Crystal (pinky clear), Pearl (sheer beige gold) and Quartz (brown pink). If she prefers color, go for Sunlit (sheer bronze), Ruby (beige red), or Amethyst (rose violet).
- **Nail color**—230 is a deep purple with gold, blue and silvery crystals, while 229 is the classic seductive deep red. Tip: If you want shimmery deep red like rubies, look for Revlon's Top Speed in Firecracker.

Shu Uemura Atelier Style Pouch. If Shu Uemura were a car, it would probably be a Jaguar. Women of any age will love to own one.

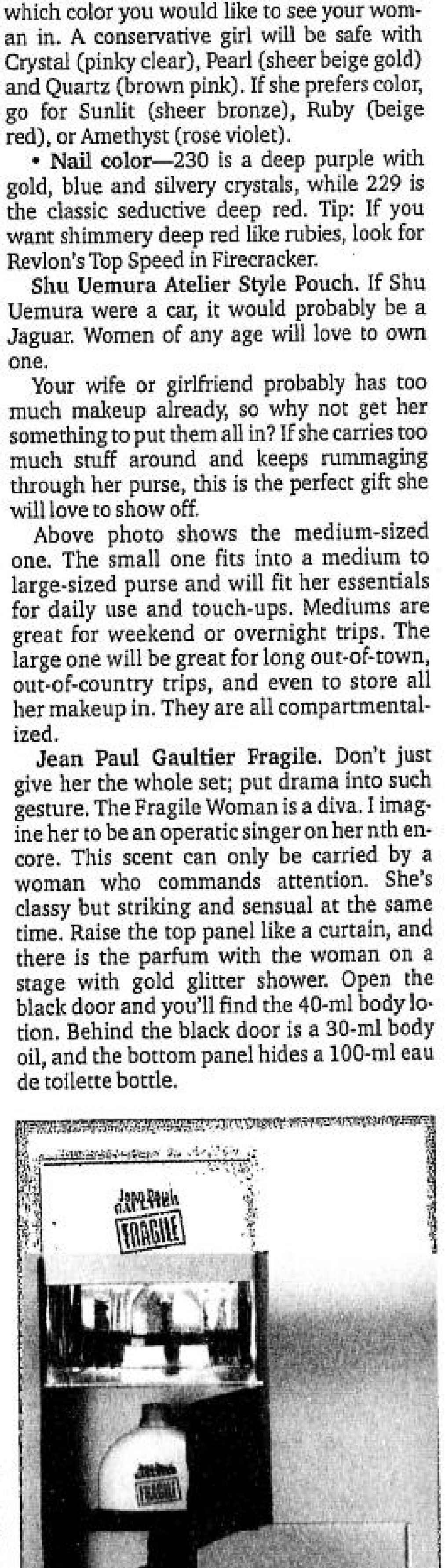
Your wife or girlfriend probably has too much makeup already, so why not get her something to put them all in? If she carries too much stuff around and keeps rummaging through her purse, this is the perfect gift she will love to show off.

Above photo shows the medium-sized one. The small one fits into a medium to large-sized purse and will fit her essentials for daily use and touch-ups. Mediums are great for weekend or overnight trips. The large one will be great for long out-of-town, out-of-country trips, and even to store all her makeup in. They are all compartmentalized.

Jean Paul Gaultier Fragile. Don't just give her the whole set; put drama into such gesture. The Fragile Woman is a diva. I imagine her to be an operatic singer on her nth encore. This scent can only be carried by a woman who commands attention. She's classy but striking and sensual at the same time. Raise the top panel like a curtain, and there is the parfum with the woman on a stage with gold glitter shower. Open the black door and you'll find the 40-ml body lotion. Behind the black door is a 30-ml body oil, and the bottom panel hides a 100-ml eau de toilette bottle.

SHU Uemura Atelier Style Pouch

CLARINS Precious Jewels Collection



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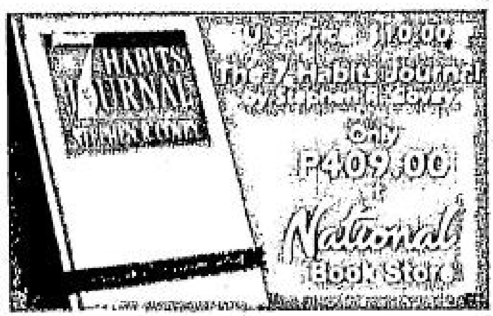
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Loren drops Leviste the name, 'but not the man'

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

ONE morning two weeks ago, over brunch of dates and rum cake in her home, I got to ask Sen. Loren Legarda what many have been wondering about: Why is she dropping "Leviste" from her name?

"For 20 years or so, I've been known as Loren Legarda," she said, "so why not?"

"I'm dropping Leviste the name but not the man," she added.

Clear enough. For now.

Naturally such remarks could only segue to her marriage. Like a seasoned politician, she can shrug off persistent talk that her marriage is on the rocks.

"No marriage is made in heaven," she said. "I can be very stubborn. It's not easy. I don't believe [marriage] is ever 50-50. It's never equal. You're either taking more or giving more."

What people have been saying—that her husband Tony could be, or is, a liability to her political ambitions—is coming to her loud and clear.

"I'm keenly aware of the pluses and the minuses. It's a matter of marginalizing the negative. And..." she added emphatically, "I never allow anyone to run my life for me."

Since I've known Loren for more than 20 years, along with her mom Bessie, even before she joined media, I can believe that. She's one of the most driven and focused individuals I've known. To say that she's a woman who knows her self-worth is an understatement.

She has always watched out for herself. In grade school and high school, she planned her honors. In college, she planned her broadcasting career. In her newscasting, she built herself up for bigger things.

She likes strong, intelligent men. Her husband, who's 20 years her senior, is both. But she's also drawn to him because of "his love for me." Of course, she also values that he helps her strategize her career.

A few years ago, Loren and the trivia about her personal life wouldn't have seemed as juicy as they do now because then she was just one of the politicians. These days, she's seen as a potential Vice President, with a probable political liability in her husband, and that makes for good speculation.

She herself admits that her career is at the crossroads—she could just run for re-election or team up with a Presidential candidate and run for Vice President.

In the next few months, she could be making a decision which, she said, "could change my life and that of my family." Or, she mused, she could just stay put.

We're doing a magazine shoot and story on her, which I'm writing, and the task took us to her island in Batangas. As many know, her island is called "Lorelei," a name given by Tony himself.

Tony bought the island in 1976 for about P350,000 and he gave it to her as a wedding anniversary gift in the '90s. Through the years they have built a house there—a simple concrete two-story structure with thatched roof, two bedrooms and a balcony that looks out onto the sea.

Its décor and accents are mostly ethnic pieces Loren has collected from travels to Mindanao—baskets, T'boli belts and necklaces, wooden furniture and so on.

As our makeup stylist Kei Pagtakhan did her hair and makeup, I nagged her again about the rumor linking her romantically to an older politician, and asked why the rumor

LOREN/ G3

SEN. Loren Legarda

Trivia about her personal life are juicy because now she's seen as a Vice President wannabe

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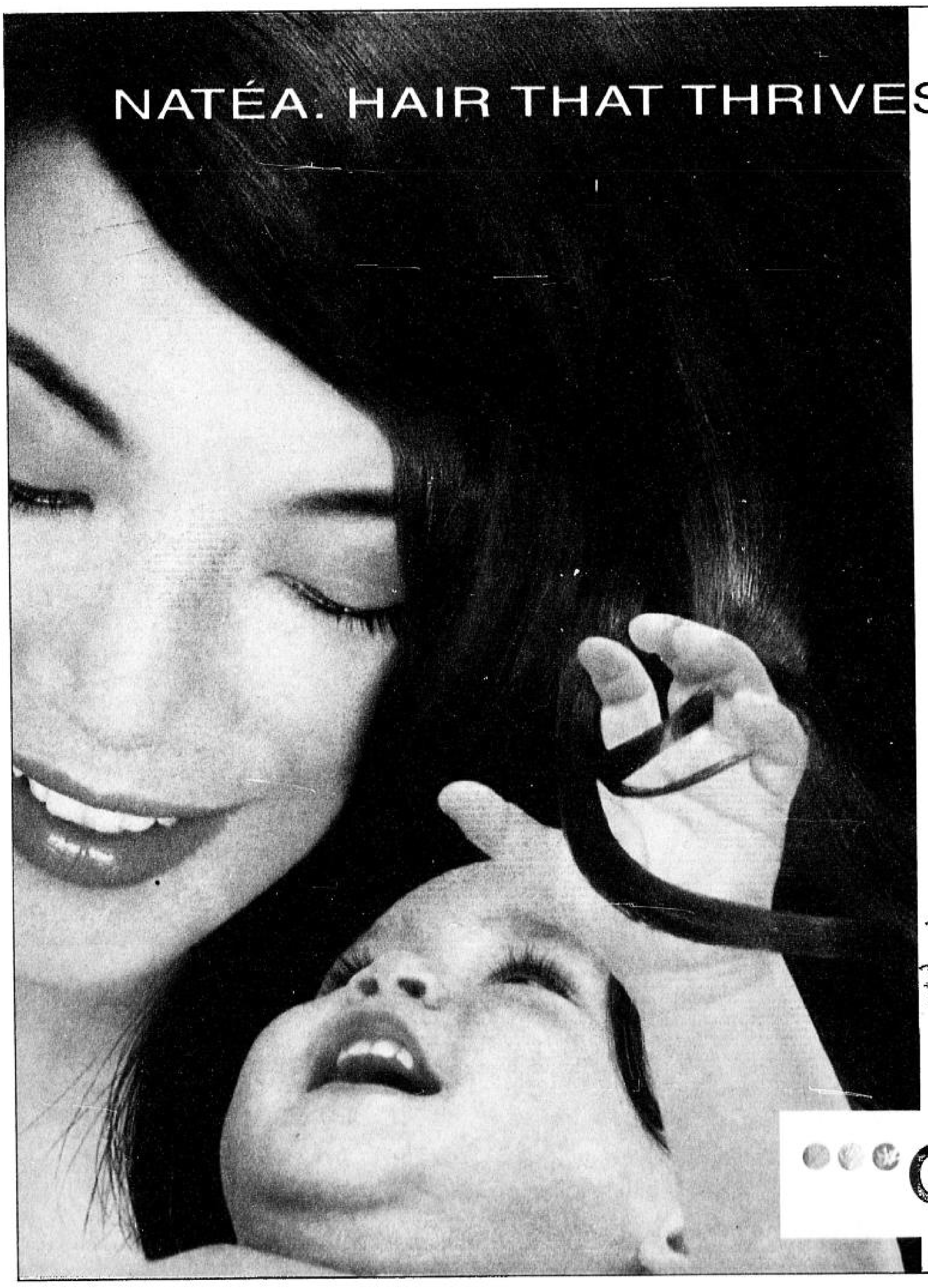
NATÉA. HAIR THAT THRIVES ON COLOR.



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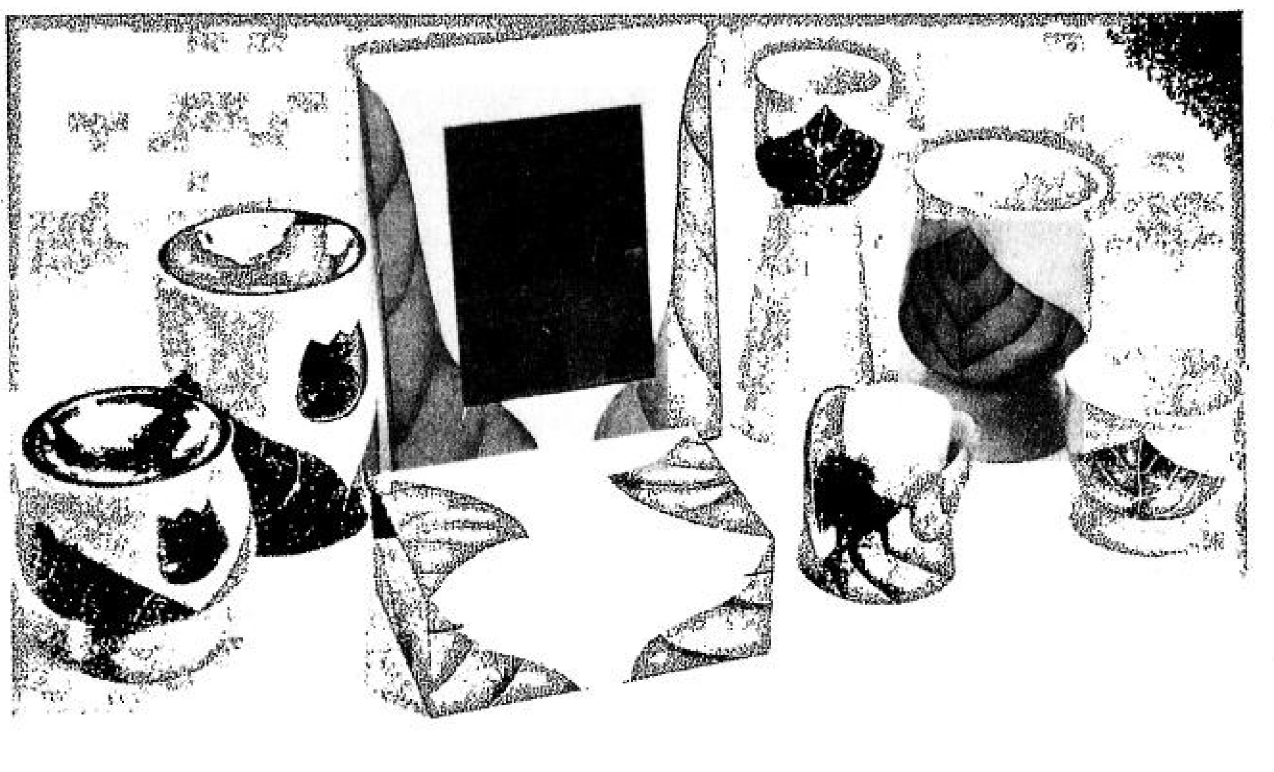
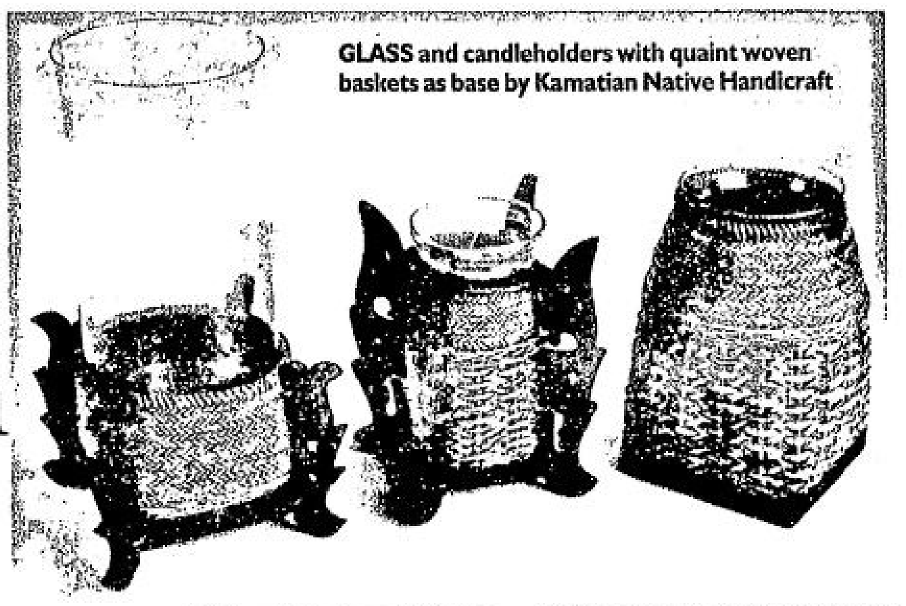


HOME accessories made from fossilized stone with leaf accents in jade by Negros Oriental Arts and Heritage



GLASS and candleholders with quaint woven baskets as base by Kamatian Native Handicraft

Home furnishings remain top drawer in DTI exhibits

HOME furnishings, one of the Philippines' top export products, remain the top drawer in various local trade fairs and exhibits organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and its affiliated agencies in 2002.

The fine, clean lines and stylized details add a final touch of sophistication that captured the discriminating tastes of both local and foreign buyers, according to Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

"Top earning companies, mostly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who participated in last year's trade fairs," he said, "are gradually realizing the importance of product development in the competitiveness and marketability of their products.

They consult the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines (PDDCP) who are on hand to help conceptualize and develop commercially acceptable products that meet the needs and requirements of local and foreign markets," he added.

PDDCP's mission, which is to promote industrial design as a tool for improving the quality and competitiveness of Philippine products, attends to the design needs of entrepreneurial groups and associations from every level of industry.

The 2002 National Trade Fair (NTF), one of PDDCP-organized exhibits, is a perfect example of the government and private sector's successful partnership. Its roster of 205 exhibitors sought PDDCP's stable of talented designers who provide product development and design consultation for the event.

"PDDCP conceptualized 1,477 designs for a wide array of products that include furniture and home accessories, fashion and personal accessories, toys, gifts and decor, and packaging," PDDCP's executive director Minerva Franco said in her yearend report to Roxas.

As a result, the five-day 2002 NTF raked in P10 million worth of sales from its line of home furnishings alone. These products were sold with PDDCP's distinct packaging and design.

The top drawers included Region 7's Negros Oriental Art Heritage, Region 4's Kamatian Native Handicrafts, Region 6's Susan Delicacies and Region 9's Mindanao Pearl.

However, the best-selling prototype in the Furniture and Furnishing Sector was created by Vigan Casa Antigua of Region 1. Its Occasional Chair, hauled from *kamagong* and *molave*, was designed by PDDCP's Marife Reyes.

"PDDCP has been instrumental in helping these SMEs advance appropriate product development strategies," said Roxas, "and the results are quite encouraging. The improved turnout of sales generated in trade fairs and exhibitions is just one of the measures of a successful product development activity."

This year's NTF will again be held at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong on March 12-16. Call the PDDCP Promotions Division at 832-1112 to -18; fax 832-3649; or e-mail pddcp@mozcom.com.

Another trade promotions agency of the DTI, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), also offers a similar program but limited to furniture, gifts and houseware, Christmas and other holiday décor, and jewelry and fashion accessories sector only.

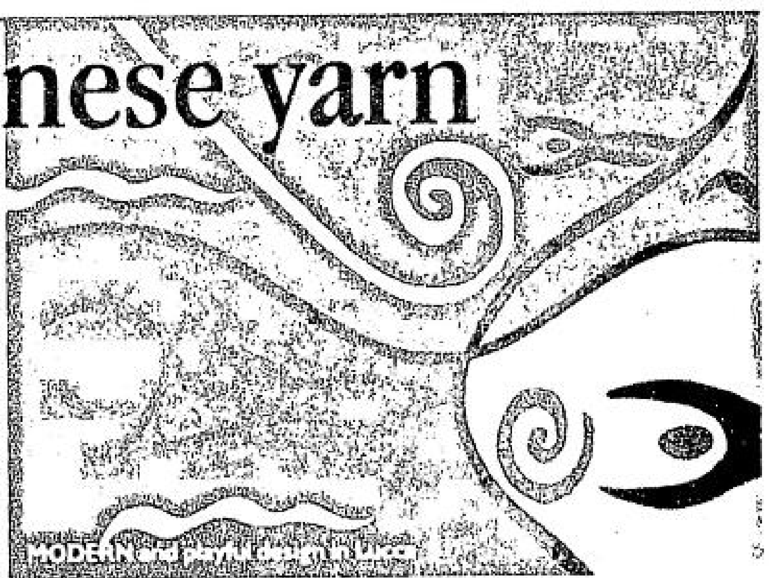
This is highlighted during the Manila Fame International show, which supports its various exhibitors through the Merchandise Design Consultancy Program (MDCP).

MDCP features renowned designers from here and abroad who render fresh and innovative designs for Philippines' furniture, gifts and houseware, holiday décor and jewelry and fashion accessories export market.

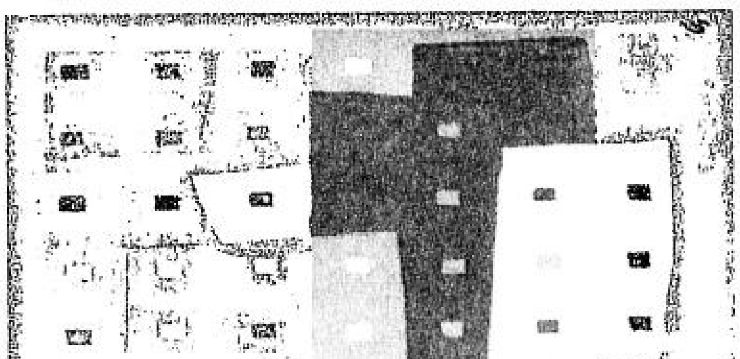
MFi's Spring Edition, only for trade buyers, is scheduled on April 24-27. Call Citem at 833-1258 or 834-0188; fax 832-3965; e-mail info@citem.com.ph.

Roxas said that continuing product development is still the key to any successful enterprise. "This factor, hopefully, would set SMEs apart from the others who are still trying to find their niche in the market."

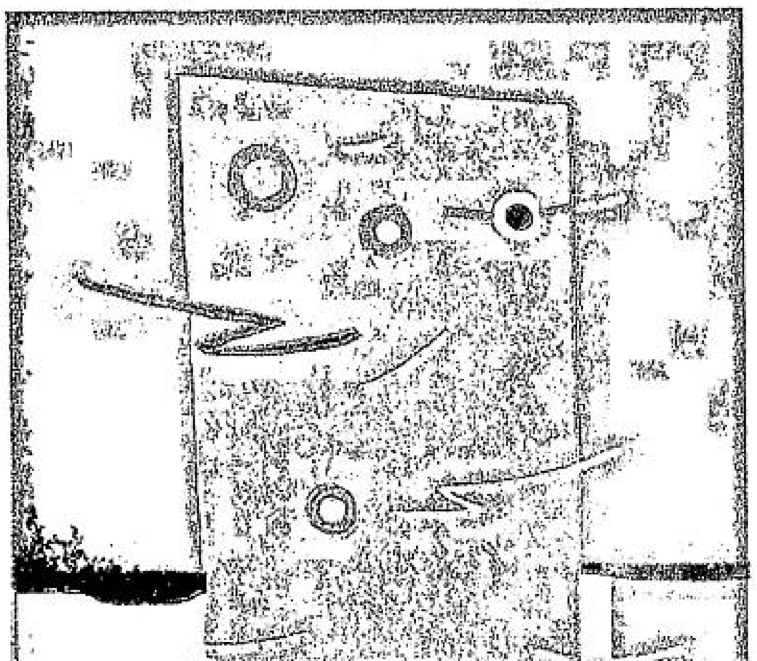
Liven up your home with Japanese yarn acrylic carpets



MODERN and playful design in Lucca



SANTIAGO has funky geometric patterns.



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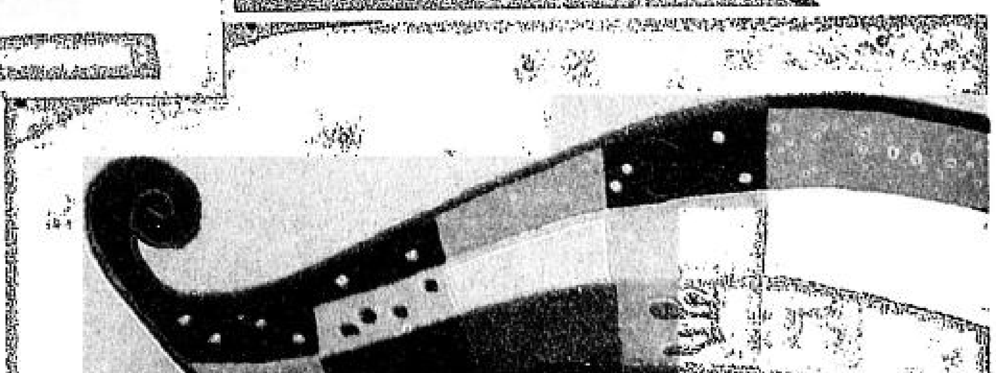


ITALIAN-INSPIRED Antonio carpet with abstract design

EUROPEAN-INSPIRED Indios comes in pan-[illegible] colors and funky geometric designs.

AFRICAN-INSPIRED Zoo mixes animal patterns and earth hues.

ICING is to cake as carpet is to room. This exotic art object is more than just an accessory that adds value to expensive interiors. Carpets are very functional and one of the most versatile soft furnishings. They can be used on the wall as an accent or on the floor to bring life to a large floor area. Whatever your purpose for buying carpets, they can certainly fill your room with warmth.

Carpets are of two types: flat weaves (such as the Kilims and Sumaq) and pile carpets. The flat weave is created by knotting different colored threads around two vertical warp threads on the loom.

Pile carpets are soft and have a luxurious feel and are made of wool or acrylic yarn.

Play & Display features a new carpet line of finest area rugs made of superior, heavy, high density, soil-proof and resilient 100-percent Japanese yarn acrylic. These are the colorful Antonio, which is predominantly orange and yellow; the subdued yet lively Argento with black background and multicolored short lines; the vivid Enriquez; the magical Indios with black field and royal violet border; the classical Julio with geometrical design; African-inspired Zoo and Nero; Lucca, Miga and Santiago all come in beautiful colors with geometrical designs.

These are all available in five sizes: 3x5 ft; 4x6 ft; 5x8 ft; 6x9 ft and 2.3x10 ft, which is ideal for foyers and halls. Each item comes with tips on regular maintenance.

Play & Display stores are located at 6797 Ayala Ave., Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, SM North, SM Manila, SM Fairview, SM Pampanga and Pavilion.

Loren drops Leviste the name, 'but not the man'

> About that nasty rumor of romance, she says he's just a friend and a mentor

From page G1

refused to die.

"I know exactly which political camp started it," she said, "but he is just a friend and a mentor." She's certain it's part of pre-election intrigue.

But then people wonder why you're "blooming," I said.

"Look at that mindset," she said, "as if we women always need a man to be able to bloom." What woman worth her spur would disagree with that?

With naughty logic, I told her she should actually be flattered that people perhaps find her youthful and attractive enough to be linked to guys (old goats included).

Tony and the kids were around that Sunday. Tony, who looks fit and slim after losing 25 lbs over a year and a half, spent the day puttering around the island, instructing the handymen around on construction and gardening chores here and there.

As he walked us to the wooden tower where our photographer Jovel Lorenzo was setting up the shoot, we got to talk about the "rumor" and how he was taking it. He laughed it off, guffawed really, and said he and his male friends even talk about it.

"He's [the politician] a good family friend. He comes here for dinner and we also go visit his farm," he said.

The Levistes were like any regular family that Sunday, with the two boys glued to the computer playing games, Loren dividing her time between doing the shoot and doting on the boys, Tony finishing up what needed to be done for the social Loren would be hosting on the island the next weekend.

Of course, we got to talk about a lot of other things apart from the speculations hounding her, mostly updates on what I've already known about this woman through the decades. But that should be for another story.

What else could a woman like her, who seems to have it all, want now? "Just give me status quo," she said. "And the gift of discernment."

Another thing that engrossed us was the discovery that her 12-year-old, her eldest, is a cineaste who knows his movies well enough to write reviews on them.

Just the night before, he watched "The Hours" with his mother and even explained the movie to her. He must be the only 12-year-old I know who gets engrossed in a Virginia Woolf movie. I asked him to review it.

Hearing that, Loren never let go and kept on reminding her son to meet his deadline and to write the review well. A stage mother in the making if I ever saw one, I told her.

"Thank Tita Thelma for giving you the break," she cajoled him up to the time we were driving away.

A mother in control. Any woman who can still be that amid an intrigue-ridden career is surely battle-ready.

Joy's grace

Friends of Joy Asuncion Kintanar from college at St. Theresa's visited her at the wake of her husband Romulo Kintanar. Omay Olizon Chikiamco (now Food magazine editor) and Vicky Reyes were among those who looked in on Joy at this difficult hour.

While we were not close friends since she was an upperclassman, I remember Joy quite well because of campus politics. I belonged to the left-wing political party at St. Theresa's while she was a leader of the moderate group identified with the Student Catholic Action and National Union of Students in the Philippines (which her husband-to-be Edgar Jopson headed).

She was a demure, soft-spoken girl in school, but very active, driven and firm. No matter how we coerced her to move over to the Left, she stood firm in her moderate reformist politics. With her in the same campus political party opposed to mine was Sony Dabao (Ms Phillip Salvador-to-be).

Look what the years have brought. I went on to do fashion and lifestyle. Joy led the revolutionary movement.

She became the woman behind or standing by the two Filipino men who helped define an era by sacrificing their lives, no less. Being married to two revolutionaries—that's more than enough to expect in one lifetime.

Joy, we your old friends at STC, deeply admire your strength and empathize with you at this trying moment. Life indeed brings us surprises, and you've faced each one courageously. That's true grace.

Hip gallery

The Ateneo Art Gallery continues to be so with it. It's showing how an art institution can be made to fit today's lifestyle.

Yesterday, it screened "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" and followed it with a "digital journey to the Middle Earth."

Young filmmaker, freelance web designer and information technology student Jeff Mendoza showed how Tolkien's text was made into a movie using simulation software technology. At 19, Jeff is the production chief of Palmagic Entertainment and is working on a experimental film, "Moon Dragon."

The gallery event brought art and technology to the young market.

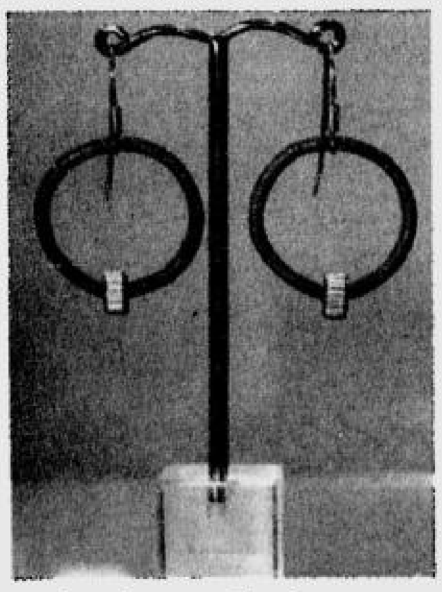
THE SENATOR with (from left) Irene Martel Francisco, Manila Councilor Kim Atienza and his wife Felicia at the recent opening of Cabalen in Harrison Plaza PHOTOS: RANDY HORMILLOSA

Self-discovery talk

There's a training workshop on "Psychology of the Heart" to be conducted by Margret Rueffler PhD, of the PsychoPolitical Peace Institute of Switzerland, on Feb. 8 at the Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra).

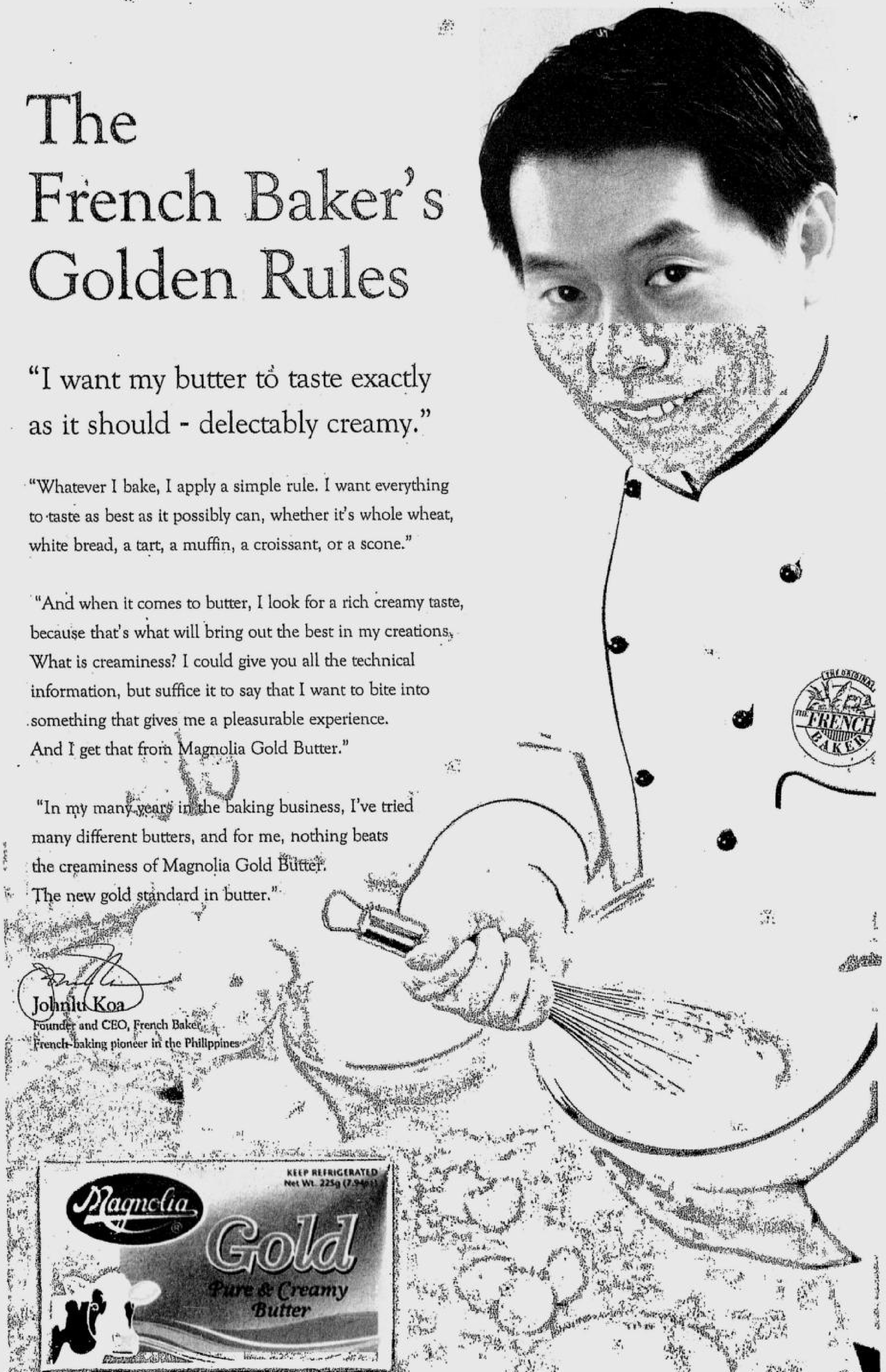
The pre-Valentine event will be preceded by a talk on "Express Yourself (How to Overcome Your Fears and Express Yourself with confidence)" to be conducted by Dorota Owen on Feb. 4 and 6. Owen is an English writer who's working on "Meditations for Mad Moments," some guide to Manila.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net



Sleek and elegant eccentrics

LEATHER, gold and diamonds. The Eccentrics collection, the rage in stores like Barney's in New York and Tokyo, and Fragments in Soho, is now at Firma. Designed by New York-based Juliana Santos Garrett, these pieces are a welcome respite from the bohemian hippie look that has been used and abused by everyone including the family cat. Eccentrics at Firma is located on the G/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 757-4009, fax 757-4010, or e-mail firma@vasia.com



The French Baker's Golden Rules

"I want my butter to taste exactly as it should - delectably creamy."

"Whatever I bake, I apply a simple rule. I want everything to taste as best as it possibly can, whether it's whole wheat, white bread, a tart, a muffin, a croissant, or a scone."

"And when it comes to butter, I look for a rich creamy taste, because that's what will bring out the best in my creations. What is creaminess? I could give you all the technical information, but suffice it to say that I want to bite into something that gives me a pleasurable experience. And I get that from Magnolia Gold Butter."

"In my many years in the baking business, I've tried many different butters, and for me, nothing beats the creaminess of Magnolia Gold Butter. The new gold standard in butter."

Johnlu Koa
Founder and CEO, French Baker
French-baking pioneer in the Philippines

Resort launches vacation club

CANYON Woods has launched Canyon Woods Vacation Club (CWVC) designed to further enhance member weekends by providing new experiences.

CWVC is a holiday ownership program anchored to Canyon Woods Residential Resort (CWRR). Club members and their families will be entitled to a week's accommodation every year within a five-star complex located in the heart of the resort.

Initially 24 units of world-class vacation homes will be constructed. Tower A will be accessible through a podium/lobby that will be at the same level as the resort's club area. It will consist of one- and two-bedroom units with the same Tagaytay ambiance and Canyon woods amenities that made the Vacation Club one of the newest affiliates of Interval International, a prestigious vacation exchange company.

This means Vacation Club members may exchange their vacations in Canyon Woods for accommodations in over 2,000 resorts all over the world, including Disney hotels and the Mariott resort chain.

Canyon Woods has grown in size from the initial 35 hectares in 1994 to 193 hectares. It will reach more than 200 hectares for future development.

Canyon Woods Granda International Vacation Club is at 1226 Apacible St., Paco, Manila or Canyon Woods Residential Resort, Laurel, Batangas.

New digital audio-visual tool unveiled

DAVID Baldwin (fourth from left), president of Cal Energy International and the first owner of 3M's Digital Display in the Philippines, with 3M Phils. staff led by managing director Sheila Nichols (third from right) during the launch

Wherever
great

3M PHILIPPINES unveiled recently its all-in-one presentation tool called the Digital Wall Display at the Peninsula Manila Hotel. Present were CEOs and other top officials of the top corporations of the country.

The 3M DWD is a presentation device that eliminates the need for several presentation equipment and integrates the functions of a wide range of audio-visual tools in one simple and convenient equipment.

The 3M Digital Wall Display is an aid to effective group collaboration and meaningful information-sharing.

Armed with a 20-year patent for its revolutionary capabilities, the 3M DWD also allows for instant interaction—whether before an actual or a virtual audience in various locations around the world.

"The 3M DWD challenges workplace preconceptions and is poised to revolutionize the way presentations and professional information-sharing are done," Kay Concepcion-Veneracion, business unit manager of 3M Visual Systems Division, said. "We believe this 3M technological innovation will bring us closer to an era marked by swift and almost instantaneous communication."

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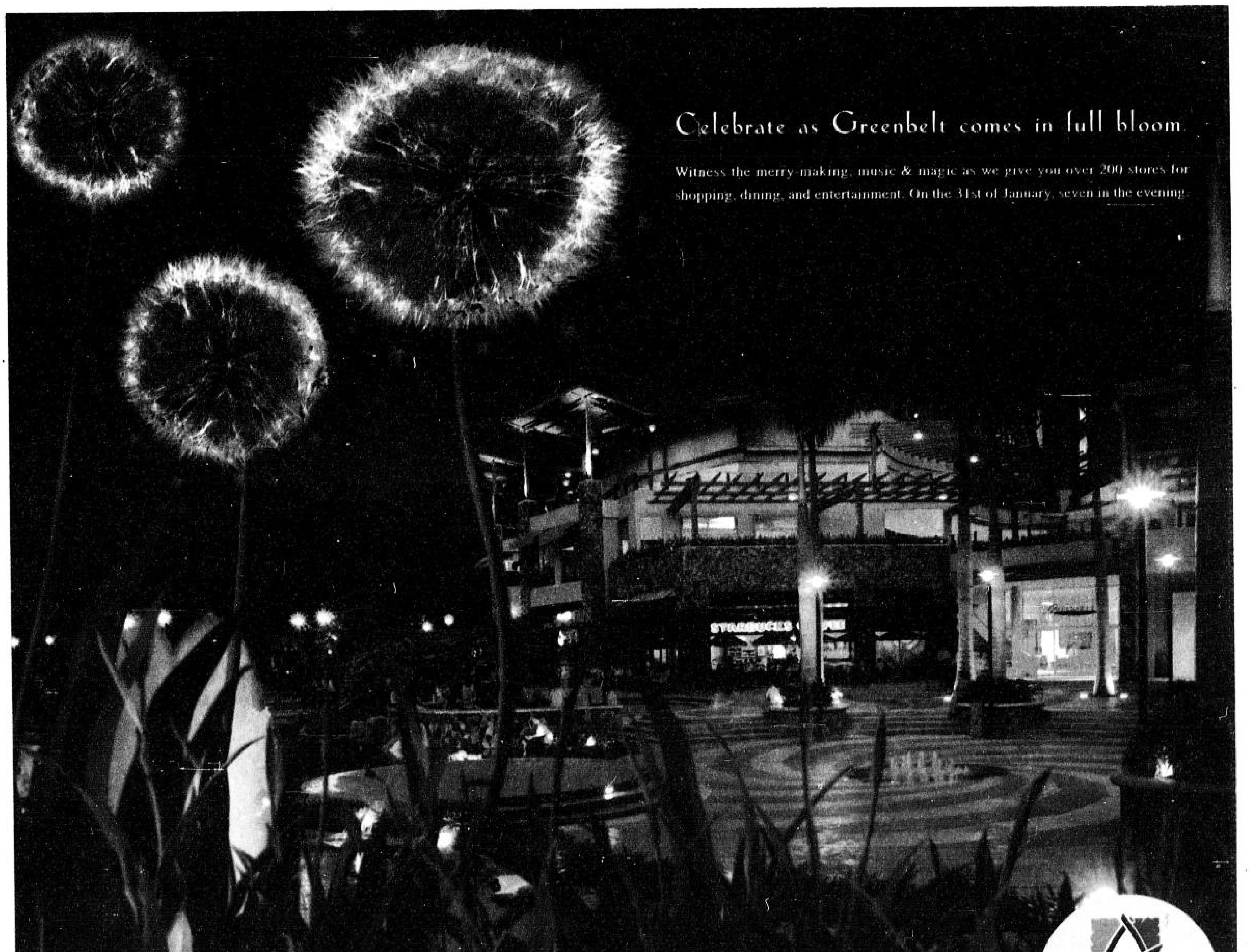
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EVENING gown, Christian Dior, 1947

EVENING dress, "Allegro," Yves Saint Laurent for Dior, 1958.

PHOTO BY IRVING SOTERO

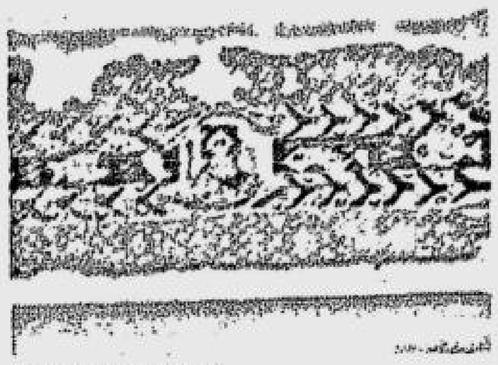
EVENING dress, "Palmyre," Dior, 1952

COCKTAIL dress, Cristobal Balenciaga, 1952.

PHOTO BY IRVING SOTERO

Museum exhibit deconstructs couture fashion

By Harriet Ann Dy
Contributor



TUNIC sleeve band

PHOTOS FROM WWW.ROM.ON.CA

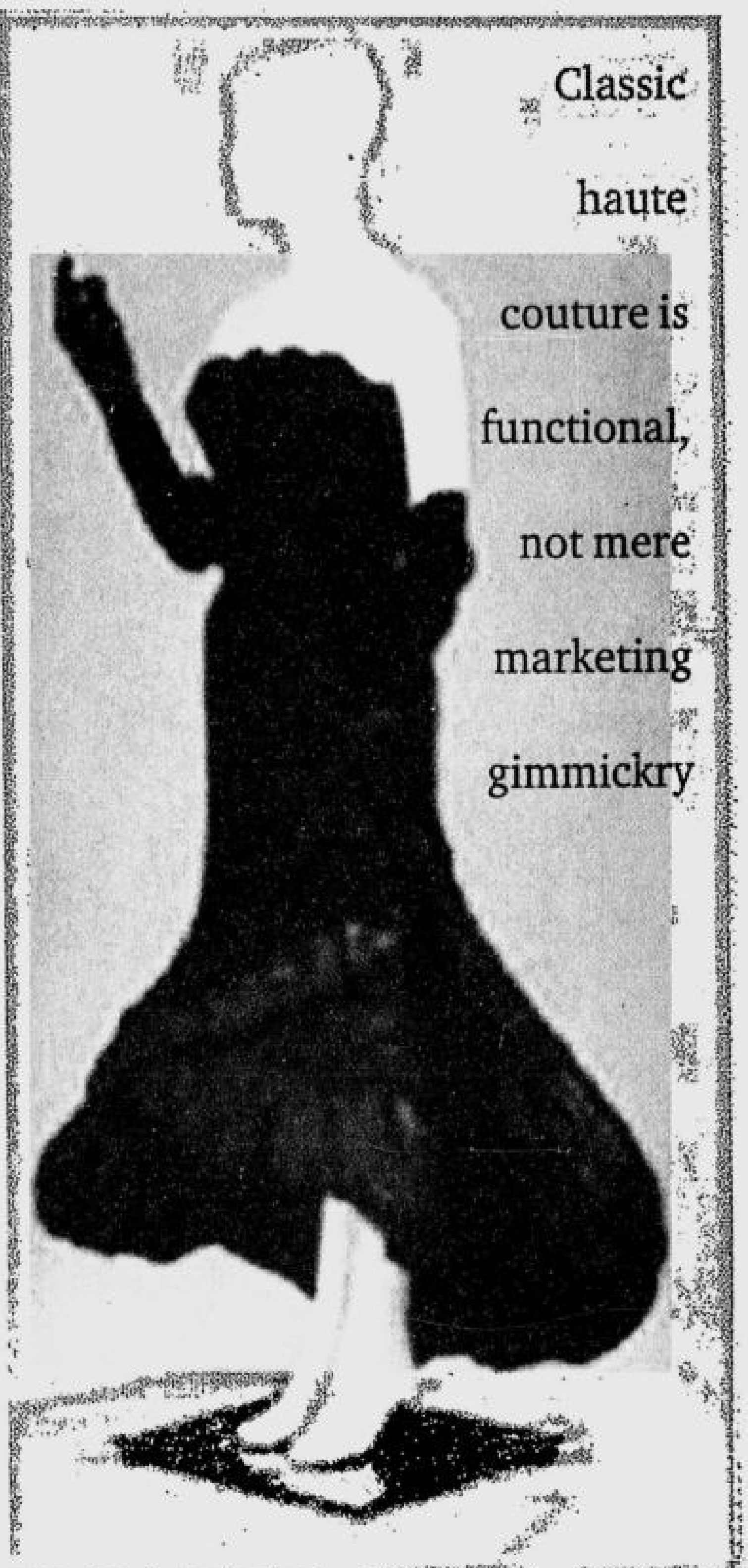
TORONTO—You know that the past is the new present when: (a) nostalgia has become the latest and hottest shopping mall theme in Japan; and, (b) your social calendar for the last two holiday seasons have included visits to must-see vintage clothing exhibits.

Two winters ago, it was about catching the sumptuous, if slightly edited, extravaganza "Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years" in Boston. Last winter, it was making sure that we got a front-row peek at couture fashion among Toronto's '50s socialites in "Elite Elegance: Couture Fashion in the 1950s" at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) downtown.

Like the Kennedy exhibit, this exquisite 60-piece showcase provides visitors a time machine glimpse at skillfully crafted creations from esteemed couture houses like Dior, Jacques Fath, Pierre Balmain, Jean Dessés and Balenciaga and lesser-known ones like Marty of Switzerland.

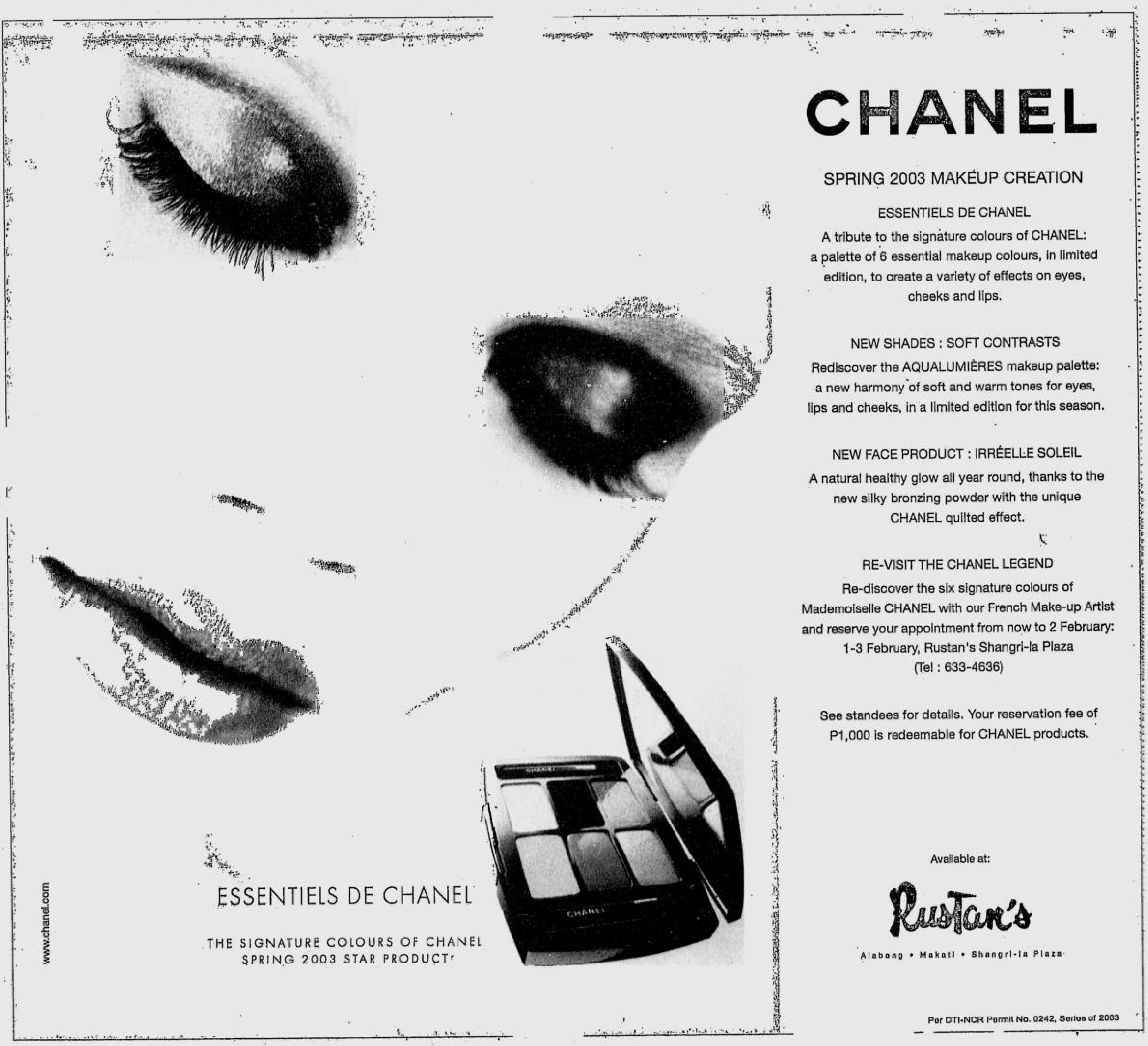
But if the Kennedy show celebrated clothes as symbolized by one woman's timeless style,

MUSEUM/ H4



Classic haute couture is functional, not mere marketing gimmickry

EVENING dress, Balenciaga, 1951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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0242, Series of 2003

PIAGET Ladies' Watch in 18-k yellow gold silvered dial, hour-markers set with diamonds, dauphine hands, bezel partially set with diamonds

RICO Tantoco and Yves Piaget

The stylish hand of time wound back

Piaget updates the Piaget Polo collection, mixing luxury and futurism

YVES Piaget, of the famous watchmaking dynasty, visited Manila recently to reintroduce the Piaget Polo.

Piaget Watches' latest offering reinvents the signature Piaget Polo into a sleek and contemporary watch line that captures the '80s allure but with a new millennial attitude.

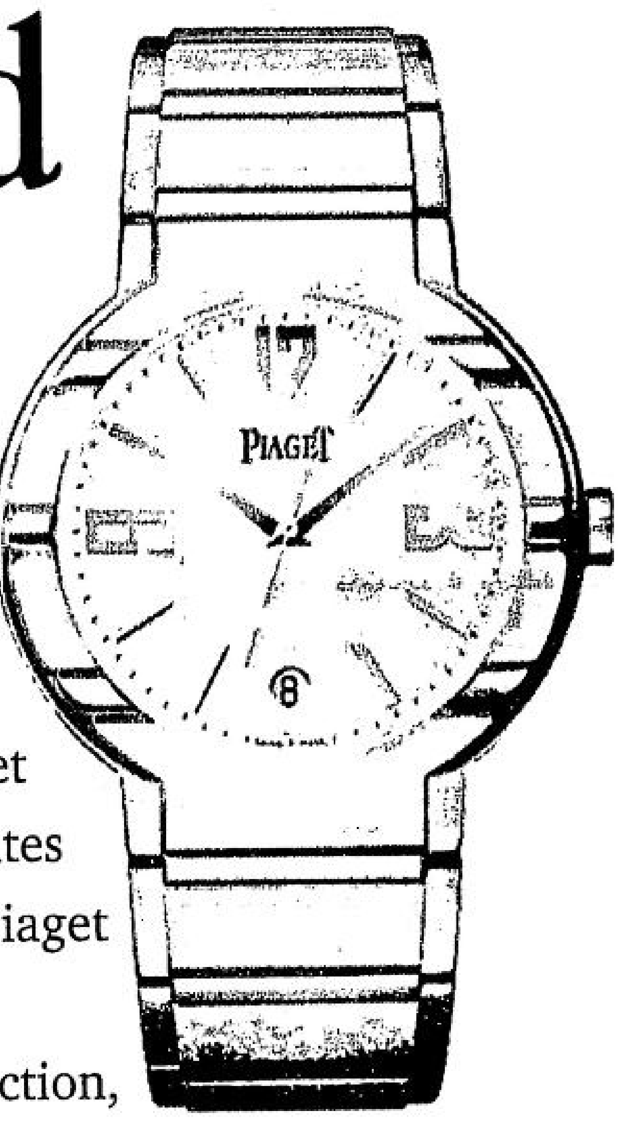
Piaget Polo was first introduced in the late '70s with a look that epitomized the luxurious lifestyle of that era.

The new version is round in shape, but still projects a bold and confident profile. It has created quite a stir for its seamless integrated bracelet.

All the 14 new Piaget Polos feature the signature movement-automatic mechanism in large models and quartz movement in small models. They come with an alternated brushed and polished bracelet and case, a folding clasp and a dial adorned by Arabic numerals. They come in white and yellow gold with diamond bezel and markers. The most opulent interpretation comes with a full diamond bracelet.

Yves Piaget, chair of Piaget (International) SA, represents the fourth generation of the illustrious line of watchmakers.

Yves Piaget has steered his company to the new millennium, preserving its trademark personal touch and leadership in watch fashion. He gave the brand a new dimension through a merger with the Richemont Group in 1988.



MEN'S Watch in 18-k yellow gold, silvered dial, dauphine hands, 40-hour power-reserve, date display at 6 o'clock

GOLD was the theme of the evening as Piaget Polo watches were unveiled to the public.

BETH Day Romulo, Tessie Cruz, Rico Tantoco, Nellie Bengzon and Nena Casimiro

YVES Piaget, Rica de Jesus and Dmitri Gouten

Givenchy goes à la Audrey again

PARIS—The spirit of long-time Givenchy muse Audrey Hepburn reigned over the French house's haute couture collection for spring-summer 2003 last week, reviving the label's reputation for luxurious elegance.

Gone were the glam rock overtones introduced by Britain's Julien Macdonald last season—the collection presented at a spectacular mansion that is now home to the Romanian embassy in Paris was all about classic chic.

The first designs down the runway—appropriately named "Dinner at Tiffany's" and "Audrey"—set the tone for the evening. The black cocktail dresses epitomized old-fashioned class, while remaining decidedly modern, especially one in crocheted rings of black raffia and silk.

MacDonald's day wear was more daring, especially when in white: precious stones and wide-set laces exposing lots of skin were the embellishments of choice, while crocheted lace inlays adorned a leather suit.

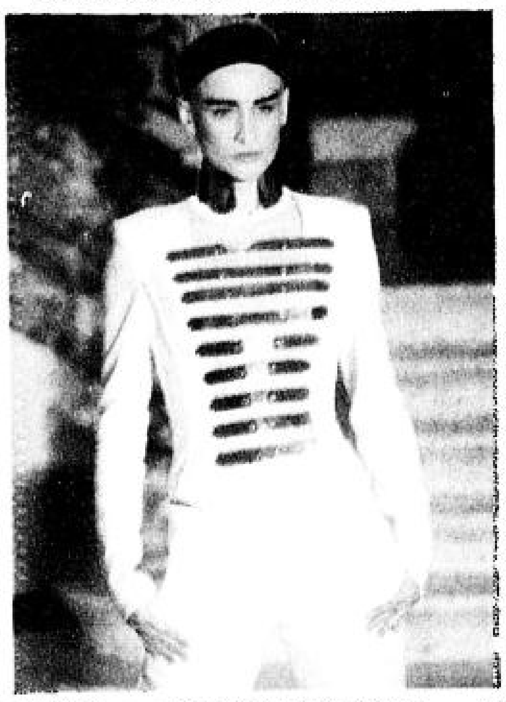
Trench coats were even more lavish, made in either a python print, black organza to cover a tulle and satin gown fit for the boudoir, or in midnight blue organdy, backless and sprinkled with hundreds of Swarovski crystals.

A coat in pleated chiffon topped a gown with a super-tight bustier, while other evening wear billowed out from the body in a cascade of sunray pleats or swirls of organdy edged with broderie anglaise.

Haute couture week was set to continue on Wednesday with Emanuel Ungaro and Stephane Rolland for Scherrer unveiling their visions for next summer along with a host of young designers like Eymeric Francois and Nicolas Le Cauchois.

The wild imagination of Irish milliner Philip Treacy will be on full display late Wednesday when he displays his latest collection of hats at a posh strip club in the French capital. *AFP*

BRITISH fashion designer Julien MacDonald is seen with his models after showing his Givenchy Spring-Summer 2003 Haute Couture collection. AFP



WHITE ensemble with metallic stripes AP

BLACK dress with cutouts (above) and a trouser suit (below) AFP

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Museum exhibit deconstructs couture fashion

From page H1

"Elite Elegance" deconstructs the notion of couture fashion as simply a marketing spectacle.

Back then, lush garments were enjoyed as much for vanity as for functionality.

"The clothes were well-worn," Dr. Alexandra Palmer, ROM's Nora E. Vaughn Fashion Costume curator and author of the award-winning "Couture and Commerce: The Transatlantic Fashion Trade in 1950s" tells the INQUIRER. "This was what started me off in the first place; the idea that these women wore these clothes and that they loved and were attached to them."

Indeed, while the show highlights the bright points of couture—witness Balmain's "tin-weighted" silk creation—they also provide insights to couture clothes in a larger social and cultural context.

Visitors are given a visual reality check of how some of Toronto's elite, like most genteel women in the postwar years, lunched, shopped and volunteered at charity events clad in smart red herringbone wool Chanel suit or swathed in a crisply tailored Fath coat not unlike today's ladies who lunch who would go to the Ivy in a breezy Marc Jacobs dress or sleek Armani suit.

Luxurious creations

Except that these were luxurious French creations that boasted of intricate construction and exceptional details like Dior's opulent "Palmyre" dress worn notably by Toronto socialite Dorothy Boylen, Marlene Dietrich and Wallis Simpson.

SUIT, Sybil Connolly, 1952. PHOTO BY IRVING SOTERO

Then there is Dessés' black masterpiece with flared bodice and double winged skirt, Norman Hartnell's mustard tucked crepe dress that reminds us of Herve Leger's trademark band dresses, and Irish designer Sybil Connolly's finely-pleated linen dress where she used nine yards of linen to produce every pleated yard.

"[Although] it was important for me to use the technical aspect of couture as a foreground, I don't think of couture as art but as a business," says Palmer. "This is not to say that it is without artistry but it is a design product." Whether made by a major French design house or by immigrant skilled labor, couture fashion was a daily tool that gave a stylish confidence to many Canadian women as they set about doing their tasks.

Spread over 4,000 of fluid exhibition space is fashion representative of a typical Toronto socialite. For "Meetings, Luncheons and Teas," there are day dresses by Dessés and Jean Patou. "After Five" and for "Grand Occasions," there are jaw-dropping creations like Jacques Griffe's stunning tangerine basket weave strapless dress with intertwined pleats, Yves Saint Laurent's turquoise trapeze dress with gathered hem and Balenciaga's flamenco-inspired confection.

Beautiful as the clothes are, they aren't simply aesthetic pieces manufactured to create buzz about a design house.

SUIT, Coco Chanel, 1959

DAY dress, Jean Dessés, 1946

Alongside the pretty are pretty worn details like shortened hemlines, alterations and fading dyes. "Alterations are part of a history of a garment," says Palmer. Only the future can tell how fibers and colors will withstand time. Already, a bottle-green Fath ball gown is scheduled to go back to storage because the fabric has started to split and disintegrate.

"These clothes were worn many times over long periods," says Palmer. "A lot more women wore couture then than it is possible today [because] the clothes were more affordable in a way that it is not today."

DAY dress, Christian Dior, 1948

Other highlights

Other highlights include a recreation of a typical "Haute Couture Atelier" and "Haute Couture Today" as represented by John Galliano's fiery Kanata gown from his 1997 collection.

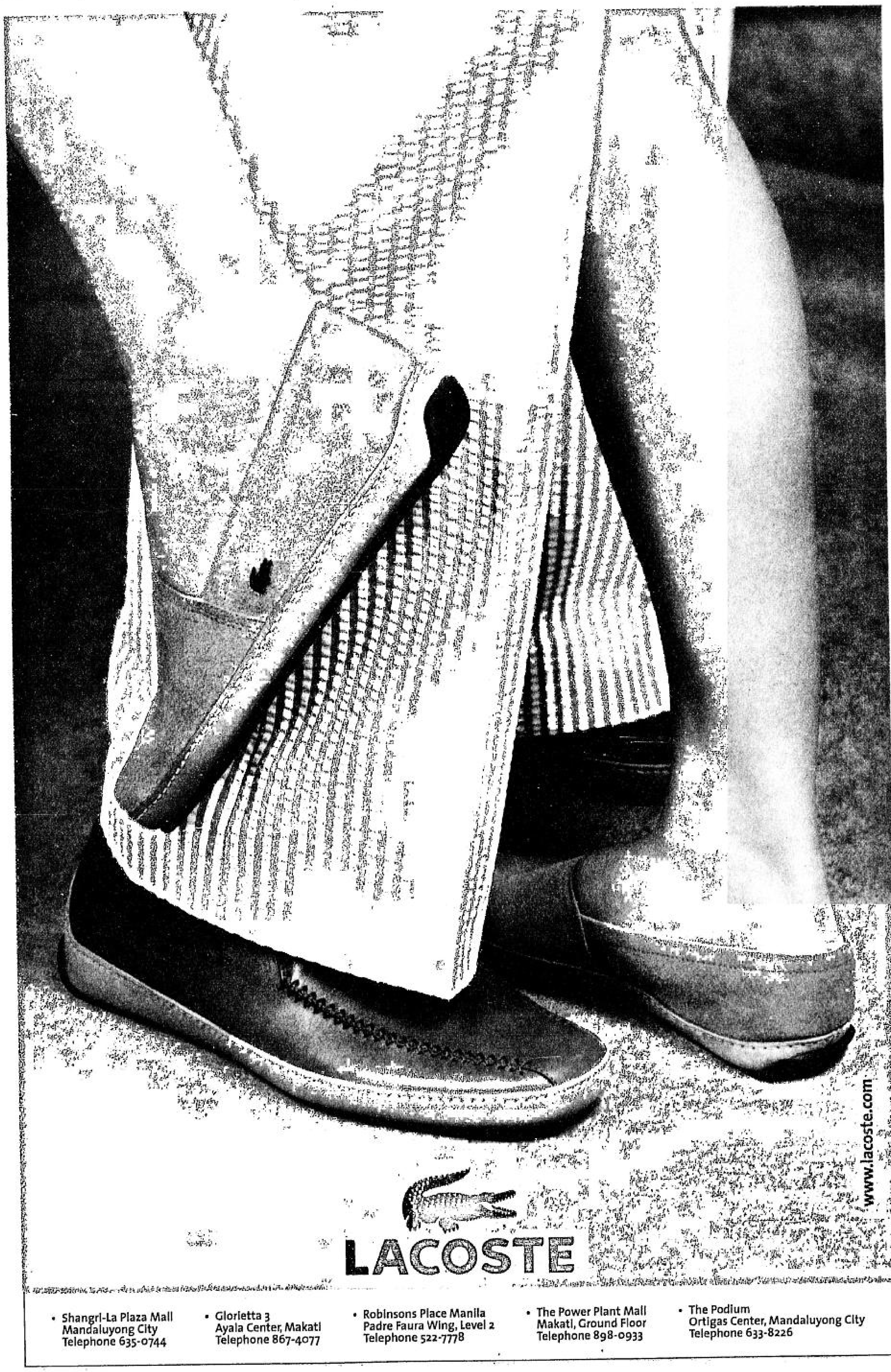
No less than the acclaimed Toronto design firm of Yabu Pushelberg—who counts Tiffany & Co. and Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts as clients—designed the show.

Although other institutions like the Costume Institute at the Met in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London are keen in chronicling contemporary designs, Palmer is hoping ROM can find its own voice by continuing to annotate the journey a dress makes from design studio to its role in its new owner's life. "I'm more interested to know what happens to design once it leaves the design house and goes into the social world," she says. And this means finding out how and where a Calvin Klein or Martin Margiela and putting fashion history in a bigger context. "I want the Margiela but I want it in a more personal way," she adds.

"Elite Elegance: Couture Fashion in the 1950s" is ongoing until May 4 at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Call (001) 416-586-8000 or visit www.rom.on.ca.

E-mail the author at chinachix@hotmail.com

EVENING dress, Pierre Balmain, 1956



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LIFESTYLE Home

Grand show opens new season of garden exhibits

RARE birds' nest fern with serrated leaves

By Tita V. Giron

IF the enormous plants at the Philippine Horticultural Society (PHS) garden show are previews of trends to come, tomorrow's landscapes will be grandiose. Some of the scene stealers in the ongoing show at the Manila Seedling Bank are the anthurium hybrids with their unimaginable sizes. Matching them leaf for leaf are alocasias, ferns and other varieties of aroids.

For example, the award-winning *gabi* plant "Colocasia var. coffee cups" of connoisseur PJ Nepomuceno can only be described as humongous! No other description will fit the 8-ft tall black beauty that's a far cry from the small edible *gabi* we are familiar with. Just as enormous are Nepomuceno's Anthurium hybrids and birds' nest ferns.

Not surprisingly, Nepomuceno, the new PHS president, runs away with several awards in the exhibit competition. His booth showcases the best of a "secret" collection he has been nurturing these past months in a garden hideaway somewhere in Laguna. It includes plants that may not have bagged awards, but are nevertheless talk-of-the show such as the priceless Aglaonema "Brunei-yuki" red.

According to the plant society grapevine, this particular plant costs an arm because it is among the rare Aglaonema in the collection of the Sultan of Brunei, hence, the name.

Highly priced mutants

No less impressive than Nepomuceno's rare collection are the forked-tip birds' nest ferns of George Mendoza. The extremely rare mutants are highly priced and much sought-after by collectors all over the world. A plant expert whispered to us while viewing the exhibits that Mendoza can well start an international craze for crested Asplenium nidus, the botanical name of the ferns.

Not to be outdone, other members of the society have their own surprise entries in the competition, unmindful of the pain and the cost of hauling the plants from their gardens. Many members have flown in from the provinces, among them Antonio Advincula of the Roxas City horticultural society, who has shipped from Capiz his now famous Alocasia var. Advinculana and Schismatoglottis var. Capizensis. Both rare plants

GRAND/12

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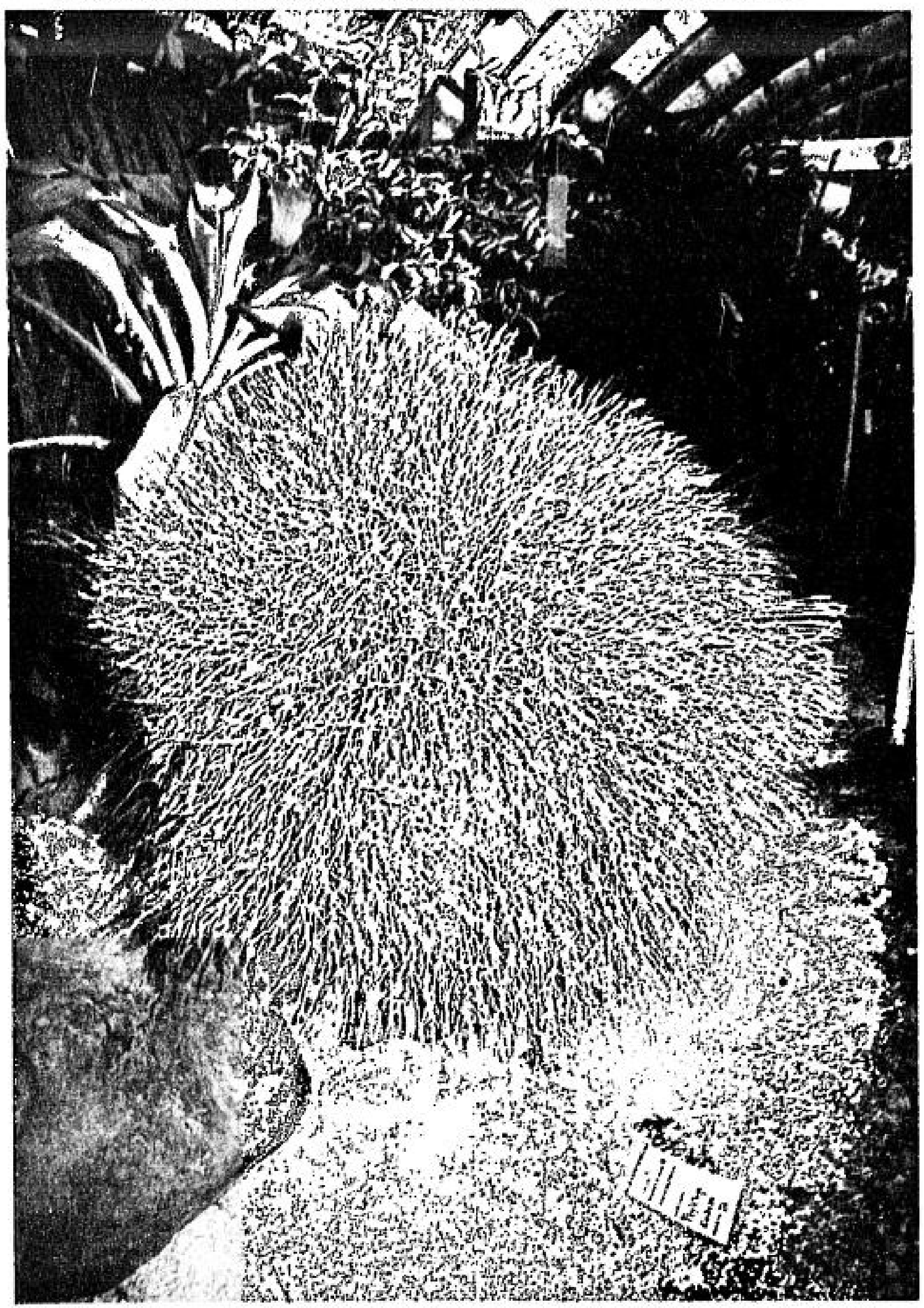
CLERODENDRON quadriculare "Brandonii" is best-plant-in-show winner.

Many plants in the ongoing 'Horti' show are not only rare but huge



PSILLOTUM nudum, a fern ally, rarely grows this big.

Grand show opens new season of garden exhibits

From page 11

are only found in the forests of Aklan province.

From Bacolod come Rene and Doreen Dofitas, who are known for hybrid Bromeliads. As we have expected, they have brought different species and breeds of Tillandsias, mostly products of Rene's breeding selections.

Jun Golamco and Bong Macaoile have hauled in from Lipa City, Batangas, their award-winning Lycopodium plant. While others have failed to domesticate the delicate fern ally from the forest, this pair of rare plant collectors from Lipa have surprisingly succeeded. We have yet to see a clump of Lycopodium that is as robust as their garden specimen.

Spectacular hybrids

Fred Salud of Noveleta, Cavite, shows off his spectacular blooming Euphorbia hybrids. He is the first Filipino hobbyist to succeed in crossing different varieties of these once-forgotten old favorites with distinctive thorny, sculptural branches popularly called crown-of-thorns. Salud's hybrids at the horti exhibit were multicolored varieties of E. millii that resulted from crossing and recrossing different Euphorbias. The selections at the show have fancy names like Spellbound, Millii mini and Millii variegated.

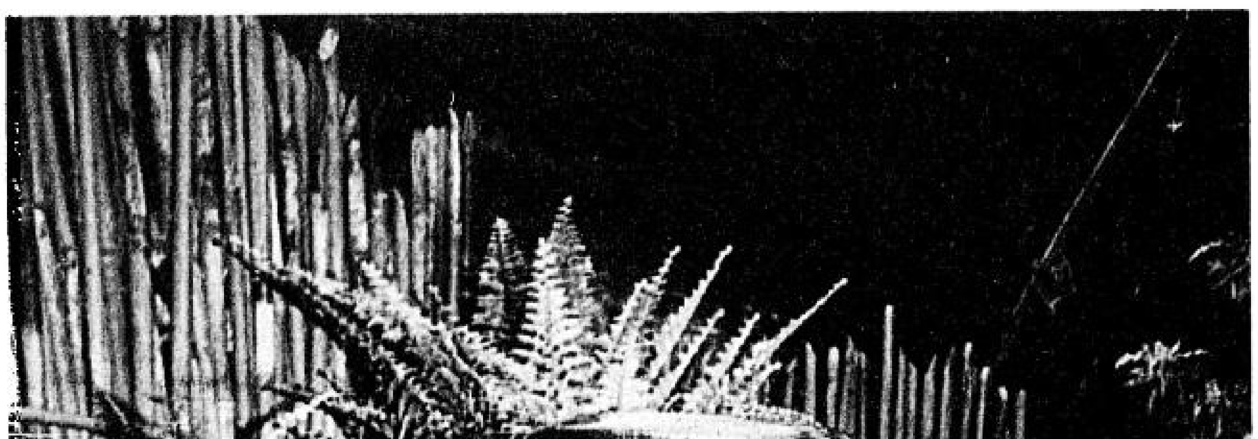
Other members who have lugged their rare collections from out-of-town gardens are Cora Purificacion (Alfonso, Cavite), Dory Bernabe (Los Baños), Francis Gener (Baguio City) and Vangie Go (Cavite). Gener has won a blue ribbon for his variegated Datura, a small tree known in Baguio City as the Angel's Trumpet.

As one of the judges, I have been overwhelmed by the many good entries. Actual selection is a breeze as the judges are generally unanimous in their choices.

The other judges are bonsai and landscape

GRAND/13

KING-SIZED. This Agalaonema hybrid is 10 times bigger than its normal size.



TULIPS and hyacinths are grown by King Louis of Baguio City.

COLOCASIA "Coffee Cups" is a tall, dark *gabi* variety grown by PHS president P J Nepomuceno.

You have until Feb. 2 to witness this showcase of 'secret' collections, rare mutants, hybrids and spectacular blooms

Grand show opens new season of garden exhibits

From page 12

artist Mody Manglicmot, palm and cycad collector Pepito Cesario, rare plant collector Roberto Mesina and Bromeliad connoisseur Emy Santos.

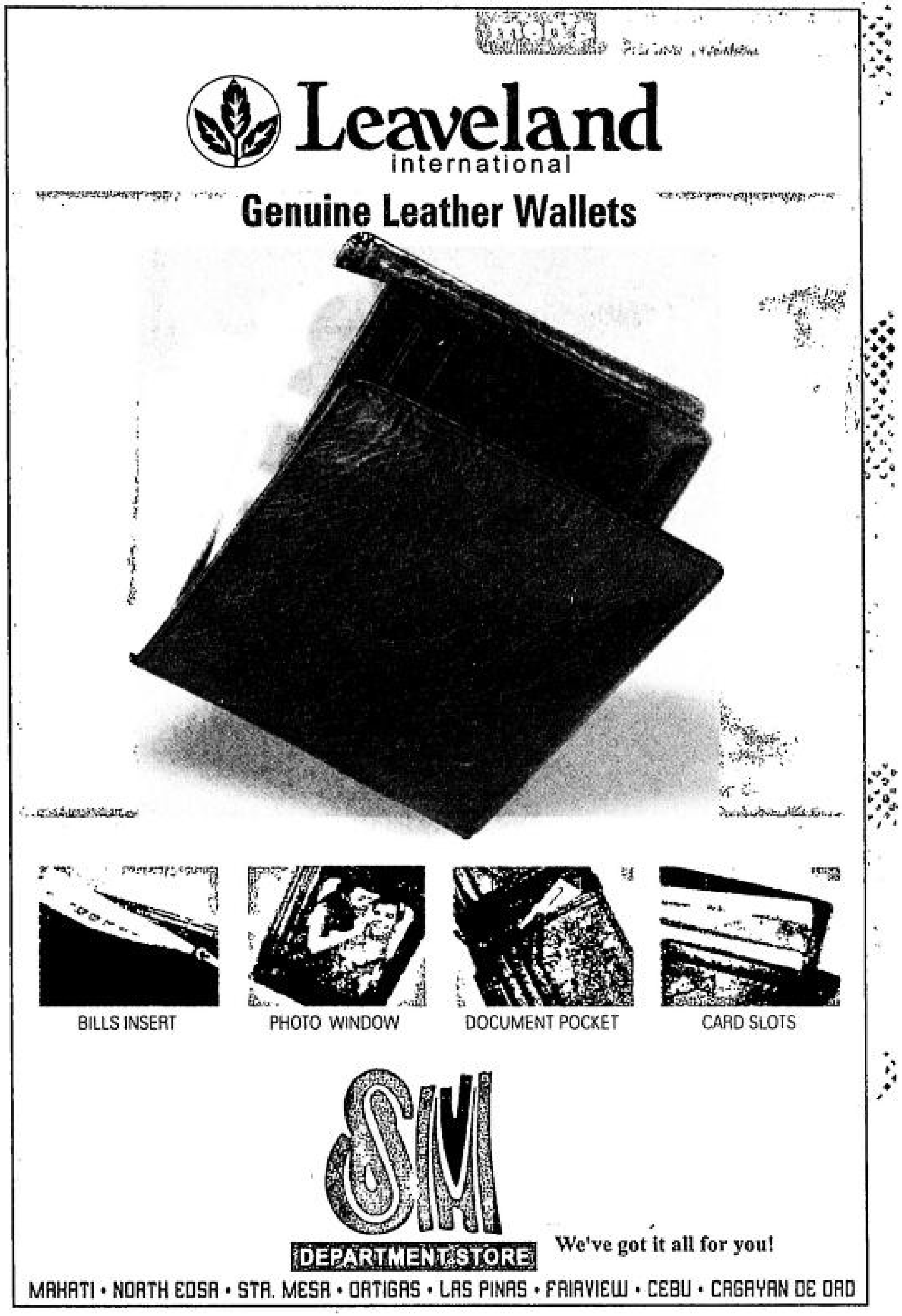
The first-prize winning plants are: Aglaonema stenophyllum, Alocasia sanderiana hybrid, Philodendron "Red Cargo," Cocotrinax crinita palm, Neoregelia Miami bromeliad, Aechmea Tayaoensis "Smith," Mamillaria cactus, Euphorbia rubra succulent, Asplenium nidus "Empress" fern, Psylotum nudum fern ally, Dendrochilum orchid species, Datura Chloranta variegata, Lycodium species fern ally, Grammatophyllum orchid, Colocasia "Coffee Cups," Clerodendron quadriculare, Bitongol native bonsai— and Fookien Tea foreign bonsai.

Winners of the best booth awards are member exhibitor Fred Salud and guest exhibitor King Louis Flowers and Plants.

For more information, call (0919) 676-3646.

E-mail the author at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

ANTONIO Advincula of Roxas City is the proud owner of rare Alocasia from Mt. Buruanga, Aklan.



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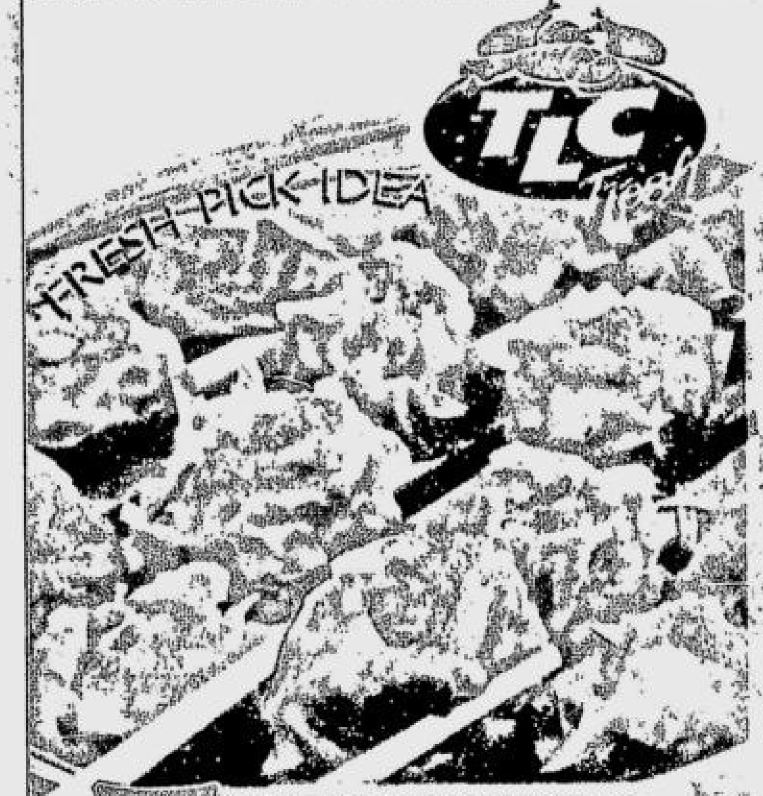

MONTEREY PORK & SHRIMP SIOMAI

Ingredients:

1 pack	Siomai wrapper
Filling:	
1 kg.	MONTEREY GROUND PORK
1/4 kg.	shelled shrimps, diced
4 pcs.	Chinese mushrooms, soaked and cut
2 tsps.	chopped spring onions
Seasoning:	
1 tbsp.	cornstarch
2 tsps.	refined salt
1 tbsp.	sugar
1 tbsp.	sesame oil
1 tsp.	black pepper, ground
2 pcs.	eggyolks

Procedure:

Add salt and pepper to shrimps and beat until sticky. Add in all filling and seasoning ingredients. Mix well and freeze for 1 hour. Get a piece of siomai wrapper and wrap in 2 tsps. filling. Steam over high fire for 8 to 10 minutes. Serve hot with soy sauce and calamansi juice mixture.

MONTEREY
Ground Pork
TLC PRICE
P95.00/kg.
Reg. Price 125.00

MONTEREY
Pork Chop
TLC PRICE
P110.00/kg.
Reg. Price 125.00

Cauliflower
TLC PRICE
P49.00/kg.

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• Pub
TLC PRICE
P315.00/kg.
Reg. Price 389.00

MONTEREY
Beef Cubes
TLC PRICE
P145.00/kg.
Reg. Price 165.00

Tomatoes
• Native
TLC PRICE
P22.00/kg.

SM BONUS
Fresh Eggs
• Medium
TLC PRICE
P37.75/doz.
Reg. Price 38.50

MONTEREY
Fresh Corned Beef
TLC PRICE
P198.00/kg.
Reg. Price 235.00

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Apples
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Reg. Price 80.00

DINKS
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200 g.
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Reg. Price 14.00

Pusit Bisaya
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Reg. Price 110.00

China Ponkan
6's
TLC PRICE
P38.00/pk.
Reg. Price 57.00

Spring Onion
TLC PRICE
P50.00/kg.

Pechay Wombok
TLC PRICE
P17.00/kg.

Solo Papaya
TLC PRICE
P17.00 ea.
Reg. Price 27.00

MAGNOLIA
Chicken Popcorn
1 kg
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Reg. Price 160.00

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Vegetable Oil
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Sinigang Sa Sampalok
• With Gabi
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Reg. Price 7.25

AJINOMOTO
Ginisa Flavor Mix
50 g
TLC PRICE
P9.00 ea.
Reg. Price 10.00

TANGO
Max Crunch Chocolate
• Rice & Hazelnut
• Rice, Fruits & Nuts
• Rice & Almond
160 g
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Reg. Price 69.75

NISSIN
Cubee Wafer
• Choco & Cream
• Vanilla Fudge
30 g.
TLC PRICE
P4.75 ea.

NESCAFÉ
Classic Coffee
100 g.
TLC PRICE
P46.00/pk.
FREE NESTLÉ Coffee-mate Sachet 5 g

NISSIN'S
Yakisoba
• Spicy Chicken
• Savory Beef
59 g.
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P4.80 ea.

LIPTON
Ready to Drink Ice Tea
• Lemon
330 mL.
TLC PRICE
P17.75/btl.
Reg. Price 19.75

POWERADE
Sports Drink In Can
• Orange
• Mt. Blast
• Lemon Lime
• Berry Ice
330 mL.
TLC PRICE
P13.00 ea.
Reg. Price 14.50

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P53.95/pk.
FREE NESCAFÉ Classic Coffee 2 g x 6

MILO
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P126.50/pk.
FREE KOKOKRUNCH Breakfast Cereal 25 g

UCARE
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400 g
TLC PRICE
P66.00 ea.
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TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 44.50

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TLC PRICE
P234.75/pk.
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NIDO
3+ Milk
900 g
TLC PRICE
P234.75/pk.
FREE NESTEA Iced Tea Lemon 200 g

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Chinese New Year

Dragon-shaped area in Manila becoming the new hub of settlement

By Raquel Gomez

HERE in Metro Manila, there is such a place commonly referred to by many Chinese as the "dragon's place." Shaped like a dragon on the map, San Juan municipality in Manila and the areas adjacent to it has been becoming the hub of settlement of the Chinese.

Of late, a growing number of Chinese are buying properties in the area, according to Leonor Gopuco of DMCI Homes, a property developer that has put up Hampstead Gardens in San Juan.

Ever since Hampstead Gardens made a turnover of its first unit in November last year, many Chinese have bought into the property. Hamstead Gardens consists of four residential condominiums. Two hundred plus units have been sold and only 100 units still remain.

"Chinese families have moved into this area because of that belief in the 'dragon shape,'" says Gopuco.

But whether the belief in living in a 'dragon' shape area may be a lucky sign or not, Hamstead Gardens sales pitch doesn't just rest on this come-on.

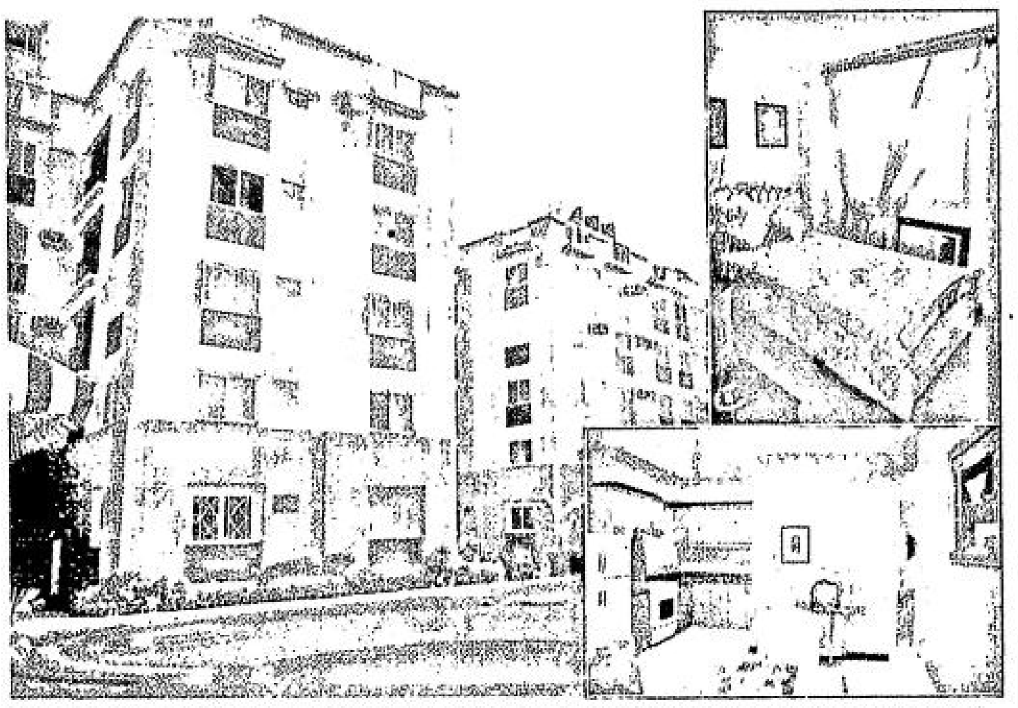
Located along V. Mapa Extension in Sta Mesa Manila, Hamstead Gardens is a compact residential complex that's very conducive to a kind of living that still defines warmth, freshness, wide-open spaces, greenery, and frolic—in the city.

Just look at the design of the property, the colors, and the incorporation of the elements. The buildings are draped in yellows, peaches and olive greens. Most of the buildings are not high rises, only four stories high, and the pathways are undulating along patches of gardens. There's only one high-rise tower and is not obstructive of the comely views of other units.

Inside the buildings are "single loaded corridors" which means that only two units share a corridor. So no bumping to many occupants during the rush hour out of the building.

There's swimming pool (which kids do enjoy), multi-purpose clubhouse (to play pool and pingpong), basketball courts, individual drying areas at the roofdeck, jogging path and 24-hour security.

Hamstead Gardens offers two-bedroom units (48 sq. m. and 59 sq. m.) as well as studio type units, and one can get a unit through in-house financing and through the banks.



THE WARM, cozy interiors and the ample space around the kitchen area complement the good fortunes Hampstead Gardens brings to unit owners in the 'dragon-shaped' area of San Juan

A quick reference

From K4

Love

Although health will not be that good, your love life will be very good. Unmarried people will find a very good partner and start a loving relationship. There will be quarrels between couples sometimes but they will not be of real concern. Married women should be careful of an extra-marital relationship. Temptations outside will ruin your relationship at home. To prevent these, one must steer clear of temptation.

Goat

With the presence of Tai Sui and unlucky stars Bai Hu, Fu Chen, Guan Fu, Wu Gui and Sui Po shining, things will not go smoothly. The lucky stars like San Tai, Jiang Xing and Tian Jie will only help ease things a little. Investors will suffer from losses and things will be hard to get through. It will be a very challenging year. Those born in the year of the Goat will encounter Tai Sui once in every twelve years. Although it may not be good, it is considered a year that washes away the bad luck and brings a new beginning of the luck cycle. As long as you work calmly and wisely in everything and strike at the sight of good chances, there will be no problems in your career. You will have a good love life in the year of the Goat. You must not get too sentimental or you will fall into the trap of evil characters. Young ones will have chances to go abroad for studies.

Career

Those born in the year of the Goat will offend the Tai Sui this year, causing their career luck to be unstable. There will be problems at work making you work very hard. As the wisdom luck grows, those born in the year of the Goat will have confidence and with the help of those lucky stars, they will be able to change the fate of their luck. Although there will be lots of problems, do not be disappointed. You must not take risks. Maintain friendly relationships. Youngsters will have chances to go overseas for studies but might be affected by a relationship concerning old classmates. You must control all these emotions.

Wealth

Take note of the lunar 2nd, 3rd and the 7th

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Chinese New Year

Dragon-shaped area in Manila becoming the new hub of settlement

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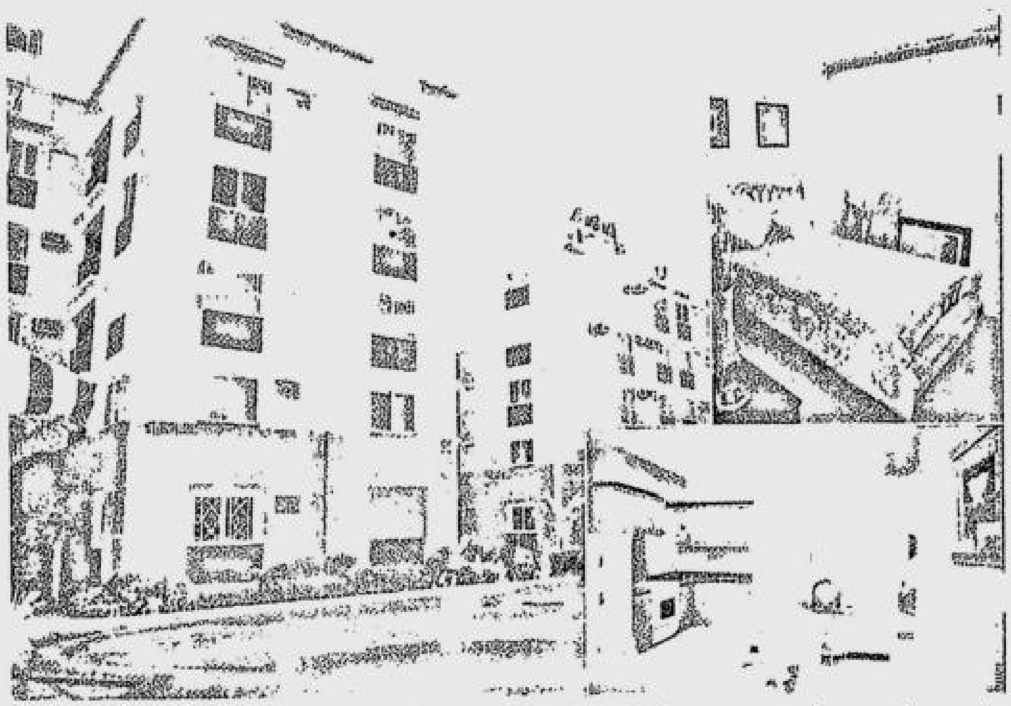

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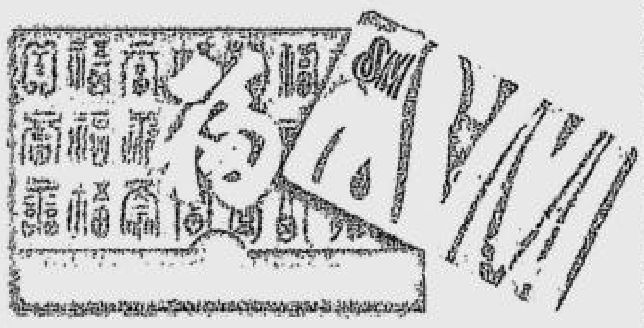

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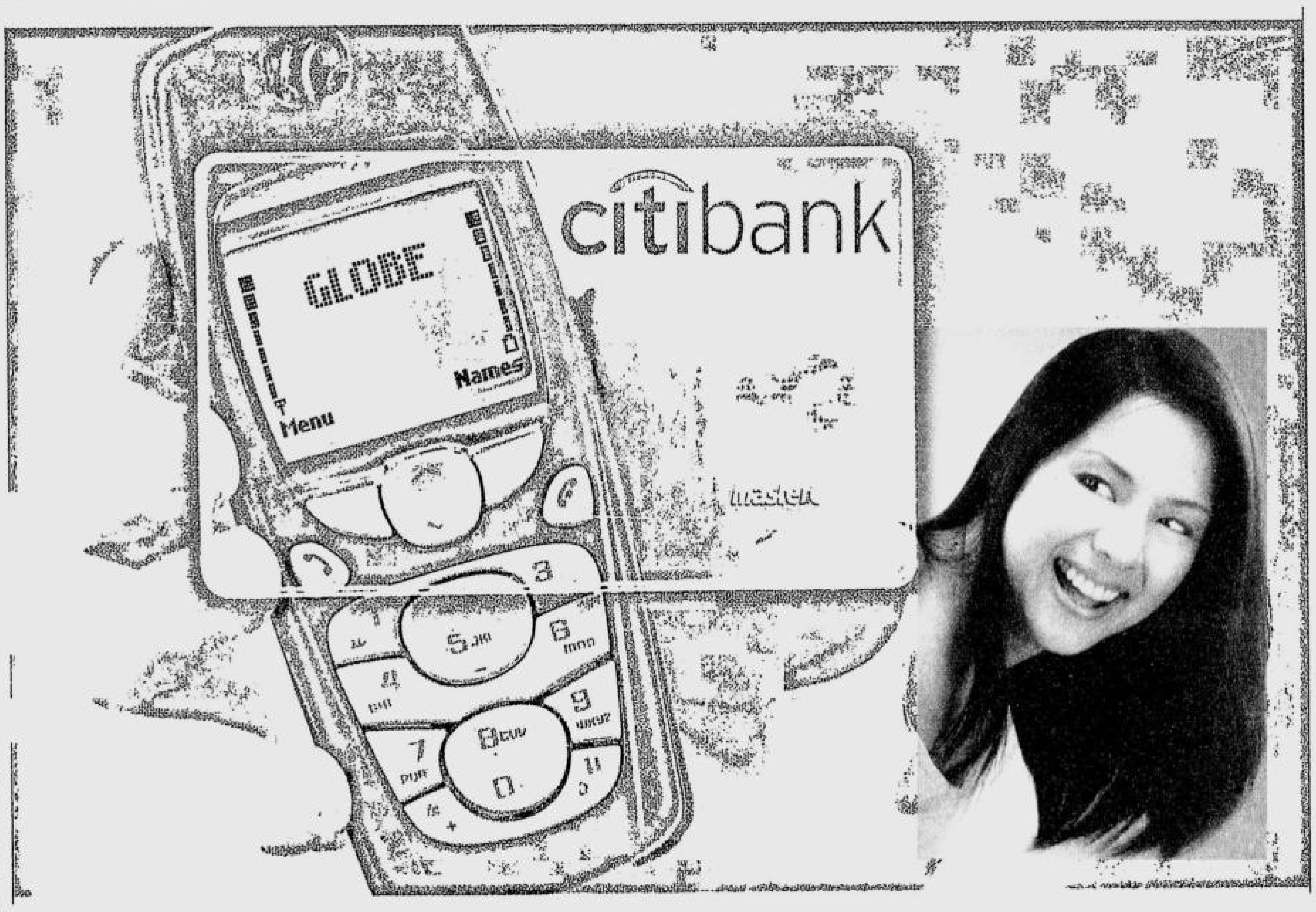

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A quick reference to your Chinese zodiac

From J1

month for you will gain the most wealth in these 3 months. You need to treasure this time and make some money out of those few months. You will be using a big sum of money in the year, with which you must be very careful. Do take care of your money. You will also gain some more in the year. This is not a good year to be someone's guarantor. You must not borrow money from people in order not to get into trouble.

Health

You not only lack in health luck, you will also be involved in an accident this year causing injuries. Do be careful of heart and lung diseases. Beware of sharp objects cutting you. Always remember that safety comes first. If you find yourself unwell, you should visit a doctor and get treatment immediately.

Love

Those born in the year of the Goat will need to change their attitude towards their friends, as the progress of your career will benefit from them and it. In love relationships, you will face lots of problems due to evil characters being around. Even though a third party will appear in your relationship, you should not have a change of heart as you will regret the decision you make. Singles will meet their dream lover in either the lunar 6th or 8th month. You should treasure the chances and pursue them with all your heart.

Monkey

Luck in the year of the Goat will not be that good. Due to the lack of lucky stars, you must be very careful in doing all things. With your strong determination, taking risks in gaining success will only lead to great failure. In this year, you should stay calm and must not be too eager to do things. If you find yourself wanting to do things alone, you are at risk of failure. It is a year for you to stay calm and leave things to happen. You will only have minor gains in the year. Being born in the year of Monkey, you should keep some savings and use this year to make preparations for next year when you can carry on in relative safety. You may only gain a little from investments in the year of the Goat, which is also the outcome of a hard pre-laid plan. Treat people normally and you might get through with unexpected surprises.

Career

Career luck is to be considered poorer this year. There will only be minor gains and you should set your goals lower even then with not too high expectations. Being born in the year of the Monkey, you will probably dream of starting in a new career but it is a great dream at the wrong time. You should stay calm and wait for the right time to invest in yourself. You will have a white tiger and evil characters in the year of the Goat, all which cause problems. Monkeys should change their attitude towards their friends, as they will need to get help in times of difficulties.

Wealth

Wealth luck is considered not bad. In the lunar 2nd, 4th, 11th and 12th months, wealth luck will be good. These few months should be used wisely to gain as much wealth as possible. Beware of getting into quarrels because of money or it will cause you to lose. Those born in the year of the Monkey will gain wealth through the intervention of people of nobility. It is best to stay away from risky investments and look after your money properly. Also use money wisely to avoid future money problems.

Health

Health will not be that good. Illness will fall upon you and your family members. Be careful of food hygiene. Do not eat too much spicy and oily food. It is best to eat light food especially older Monkeys. Be careful of traffic safety out-doors, try to avoid driving to prevent accidents. Those born in the year of the monkey will also suffer from illness of the joints. Female Monkeys will also suffer from female related sicknesses and should seek medical attention when needed.

Love

You will suffer from family related problems in the year of the Goat. The problems should be solved, don't let them smoulder. Try to endure your emotions. There will be a third party in a love relationship this year. You should try to keep calm. Don't allow your temper to settle personal problems.

Rooster

There will lucky stars and guardians protecting you in the Year of the Goat. Luck will be very good. There will be chances for new additions to families and for getting rich. As luck is very good, you should take this chance to begin or further a career. You should work harder. Although luck is good, those born in the year of the Rooster will find they have a weak point. The way they speak. This will cause them to offend their guardians of nobility and in doing so, cause themselves obstacles in the year. Their luckiest months will be the 1st, 3rd, 6th, 11th and 12th lunar month. These five months, if used wisely, will help make one's career outstanding and with glorious results. Those born in the year of the Rooster will benefit from big investments and obtain stable careers.

Career

Career will be smooth and prosperous. You will gain favour with superiors and a raise and promotion will not be hard to get. The lunar 1st, 3rd, 6th, 11th and 12th month will be the best time to make gains. You must use your time wisely. There will be some unlucky stars shining on you and you will sometimes experience unexpected surprises.

Wealth

Wealth will mostly come form your hard work. Although there will be unexpected wealth, it will come from investments and not directly. Wealth will mainly come from your guardians of nobility. Manage your money carefully. (But then, who needs to tell a Rooster to manage their money) Roosters know what to do financially. When money comes, bank it!

Health

Health luck will be normal but there will be some accidents this year. You will heal from those injuries quickly. Take note of food hygiene. When entertaining outdoors, do not eat heavily. Stay away from alcohol and cigarettes, as they are both very bad for your health. For the young and older generations, be careful of falling down, knocking into things and getting hurt. Put your own safety first.

Love

One will meet with lots of gossip this year. It will affect your relationships. You must learn how to control your emotions. Remain friendly and helpful and always give in to you love partner. Single people should be happy go lucky. You probably won't have too high expectations. Be honest with your love partner if you have one and try to understand each other. With trust, love problems can be solved.

Dog

When coming to problems in love, you must always remain optimistic. Do not put too much into a love relationship for it will affect your ability to work. Work with everything wisely and treat people normally. Try to exercise more to relieve stress.

Career

Career luck is smooth this year. You will gain from investments. Your business will prosper and you will have a chance to expand on it. When coming to dealing with contracts and documents, you must read through carefully before signing. You must also be very careful of evil characters when trying to change a line of business. Salaried workers should not interfere with other people's business and must maintain good relationships all around.

Wealth

Wealth luck will be very good. You will gain from investments this year but you must look after your money very carefully. The 4th, 5th and 10th lunar months will be the best months to gain wealth. Investments can be carried on and you must not miss out those good chances to earn money.

Those born in the year 1958 will have a great chance of gaining wealth. Be more alert in the lunar 1st, 8th, 10th and 12th months. You will gain a quantity of money.

Health

Due to a busy work schedule and lack of rest, your health will not be that good which shows you also need to do more exercise which will, in itself, help your health a lot. Take note of your emotions. Try to control your temper and not let them affect your mind. Spend more time resting and do some anti-stress, relaxing exercises. It is best to go for a holiday or long relaxing trip in the 8th or 9th lunar month.

Love

You will have a chance to start a relationship with your dream lover. For married couples, you will be at the risk of Tao Hua. You must show more care and concern for each other and spend more time together. Try to solve quarrels as soon as possible for there will be a third party coming into your relationship possibly causing the relationship to turn sour.

Pig

You will have the Yue De this year. With lucky stars like Tai Yang, Tian De, Tian Xi and Sui He shining, there will be lots of gains in your wealth. Things will go smoothly and one will have chances for a raise and a promotion. Love life will be very good. With the stars like Xiao Hao shining, expenses will go up but it will be of no problem. You must be careful of the lunar 5th, 6th and the 7th month, do not get too bored and let your feelings affect you. You must maintain good relationships all round.

Career

There will be a chance to expand your business where upon it will prosper. In the year of the Goat, those in the designing and writing line will benefit the most. Creative abilities will be very good. In the lunar 2nd, 4th, 9th and 12th months you must be careful with your temper. Do not get too impatient or it may cause your friends to leave you behind.

Wealth

Wealth luck will be good this year. You only have to be careful of signing agreements as the Sa Po Hao is around. Money must be kept safely in order not to meet up with robbers and thieves. Wealth luck will be the best thing in the lunar 2nd, 4th, 9th and 12th months. If money is earned, one should keep it properly. Do not make risky investments. You are sure to fail in them.

Health

Health is considered normal. You must be careful of knife injuries. Be careful of falling down, hitting objects and getting hurt. If injured, you should seek medical attention immediately. Diet for the elderly should be light. Stay away from spicy and oily food. With success in your career comes stress. Entertaining and entertainment is a must. Try to stay away from alcohol and cigarettes.

Love

Love life is normal. Other than some small quarrels between partners, there should be no problems. There will be chances to tie the knot this year. Do not forget your friends while having a very good love life. It's easy to become distant and forgotten.

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Master Chau on the Columns: good position, good construction

FENG shui Master Joseph Chau has seen the plans for The Columns, Ayala Avenue, and he is very excited.

"The location and the direction are both very good," he says of the new residential development from Community Innovations Inc., a subsidiary of Ayala Land. "It's lucky for people to stay in here."

Acknowledged as a primary figure in the Chinese art of geomancy, commonly known as feng shui or "wind and water", Joseph Chau is known worldwide. He has been featured on CNN International, London's Feng Shui for Modern Living, and the Los Angeles Times. He writes his weekly column "Wind and Water" in a local daily as well as forecast books for every year since 2001.

Master Chau was brought on early in the conception phase of The Columns, Ayala Avenue, to provide his insights into encouraging good fortune and good luck for the development. His judgment of the final plans is favorable.

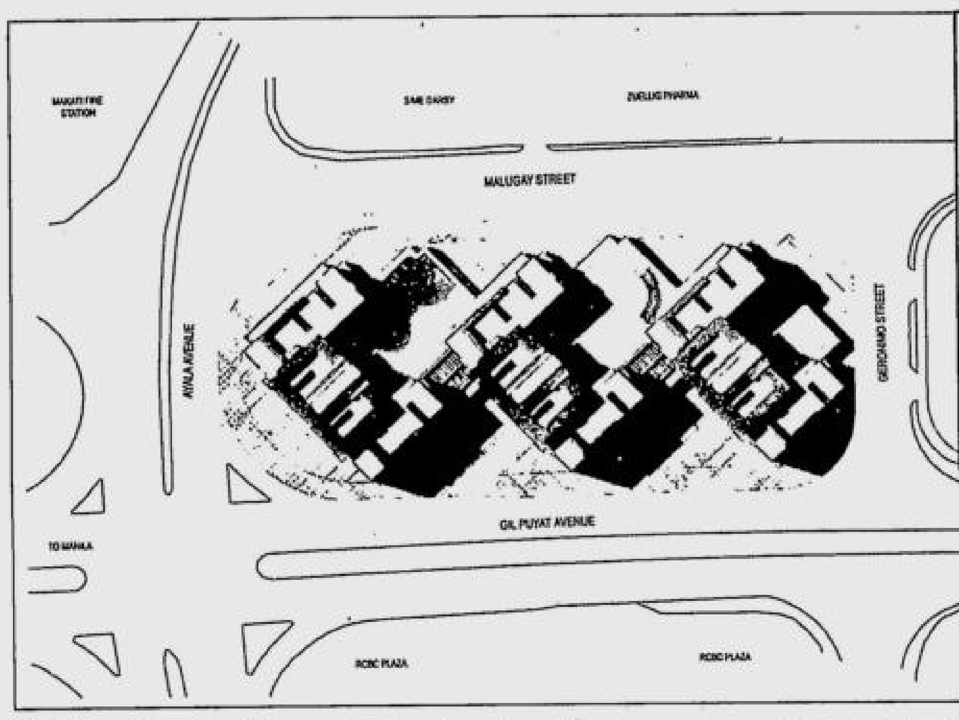
"The design is very formal," he says, noting the three towers rising from a seven-story podium at the corner of Ayala and Buendia Avenues. "They are balanced, in harmony."

"Three buildings together look like the Chinese mountain, which signifies promotion. When people stay here in the future, they will have luck in their business, with significant chance for promotion."

Master Chau is delighted with the layout of the land upon which The Columns, Ayala Avenue will be built. Lying in the center of the compass, such a site attracts chi, or energy, in feng shui practice. "It can receive the chi from the heaven and the earth," explains Master Chau. It's a lucky location, the land," because its alignment on the compass gives it a force of permanence.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is designed with a multi-use podium featuring above-ground parking, public shops and restaurants, garden plaza spaces, and private entrances for the residents. Master Chau likes the idea of having an all-in-one community that's still a stone's throw away from the heart of what the city has to offer.

He notes the alignment of the towers, with their entrances in the northeast and their facades facing southwest. "From 2004 to 2024, the northeast and southwest are both lucky locations for business," he explains. "Every 20 years we have a new trend, and luck for those years." According to Master Chau's fortune book, southwest is the "promotion position", encouraging study, job promotion, career development and fame.



A COMPUTER rendition of the completed three-tower The Columns. The first tower is expected to be completed in 2006.

THE SITE map of The Columns shows the structures' favorable position and configuration: no sharp corners and the windows facing open spaces.

Chinese New Year at the SM Malls

THE SM Supermalls welcome the Year of the Goat with a mix of fun and tradition this February.

As in the past Chinese New Year celebrations, Dragon and Lion dancers will perform around the malls, bringing on good luck and prosperity. Groups like the Philippine Green Dragon, Golden Red Lion and Dragon, Fil-Chinese Sky Dragon, Wong's Lion and Dragon, and the Pao Hong Wushu Society will take turns bringing fortune, happiness, and prosperity to the SM Malls.

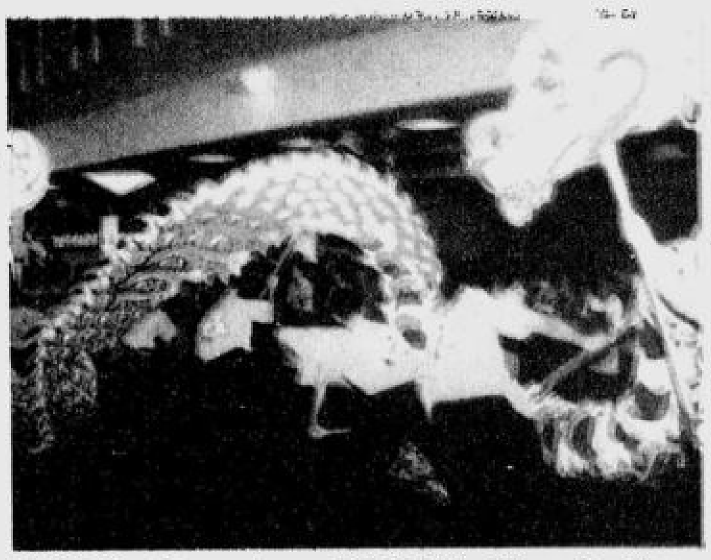
Don't miss the Dragon and Lion dance performers on Jan. 31 at SM City Bacoor, SM Centerpoint, and SM City Pampanga; and on Chinese New Year,. Feb. 1 at SM Southmall, SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM City Bicutan, and SM Megamall. All shows are scheduled at 11 a.m.

The celebrations will also feature a Wu Shu exhibition. Wu Shu is an ancient form of martial arts, and the performers will thrill audiences with their demonstrations of fist fights, weapon fights and other fighting routines. Catch them at SM Supercenter Sucat at Jan. 31, and SM City Bacoor on Feb. 1.

Learn to make sumptuous Chinese specialties at Lee Kum Kee's cooking demonstrations at SM City Fairview on Jan. 31, and at SM City Bicutan on Feb. 1, both at 2 p.m.

Want to know what lies for you the year ahead? Look out for girls in cheongsams who will distribute Chinese zodiac cards at all SM Metro Manila malls on Feb. 1 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Celebrate the Chinese New Year at the SM Malls.



THE LION and Dragon dance will highlight the Chinese New Year celebration at the SM Supermalls.

Maybank appointed Western Union sub-agent

MAYBANK Philippines was recently appointed as a sub-agent of Western Union International Money Transfer Services by RCPI, one of the principal agents of Western Union in the country. Maybank's new service is geared to the vast remittance market, spurned by overseas Filipino workers. Initially available in Maybank branches nationwide is the payout service (in local currency) to recipients who receive remittances from foreign countries coursed through the Western Union system. More services are expected to follow.

"We welcome the development of our partnership with RCPI and Western Union, as Maybank is poised to improve its share in the remittance business" according to Maybank Philippines' president and CEO Lim Hong Tat. He also recognized the vats potential of the OFW market and its positive impact on the Philippine economy. According to Lim, part of the overall strategic plan of Maybank is maximizing the opportunities of the remittance business as this augurs well for its extensive branch network in the Philippines.

"With this new service, families of OFWs can now approach any one of the Maybank branches all over the country and conveniently claim the remittances from their loved ones abroad. We would like to see these new services also as our way of serving the OFWs who have done so much for the country," Lim said.

This new service also complements the banking services that can be availed through Maybank's inter-country ATM now operating in the Southeast Asian region and among the countries of Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines. In the near future, Maybank foresees the offering of other Western Union services such as remittance payouts in US dollars as well as outbound domestic and foreign remittances or money transfers.

Maybank Philippines forms part of the Maybank Group, the largest banking group in Malaysia, with more than $39 billion in assets. Maybank is among the top 20 banks in Asia and among the world's top 130 banks. Aside from the Philippines, Maybank is also present in the major financial centers nationwide such as New York and London, in Singapore, Hong Kong, China and in other parts of Asia and the Middle East.

AddVantage Plus launched

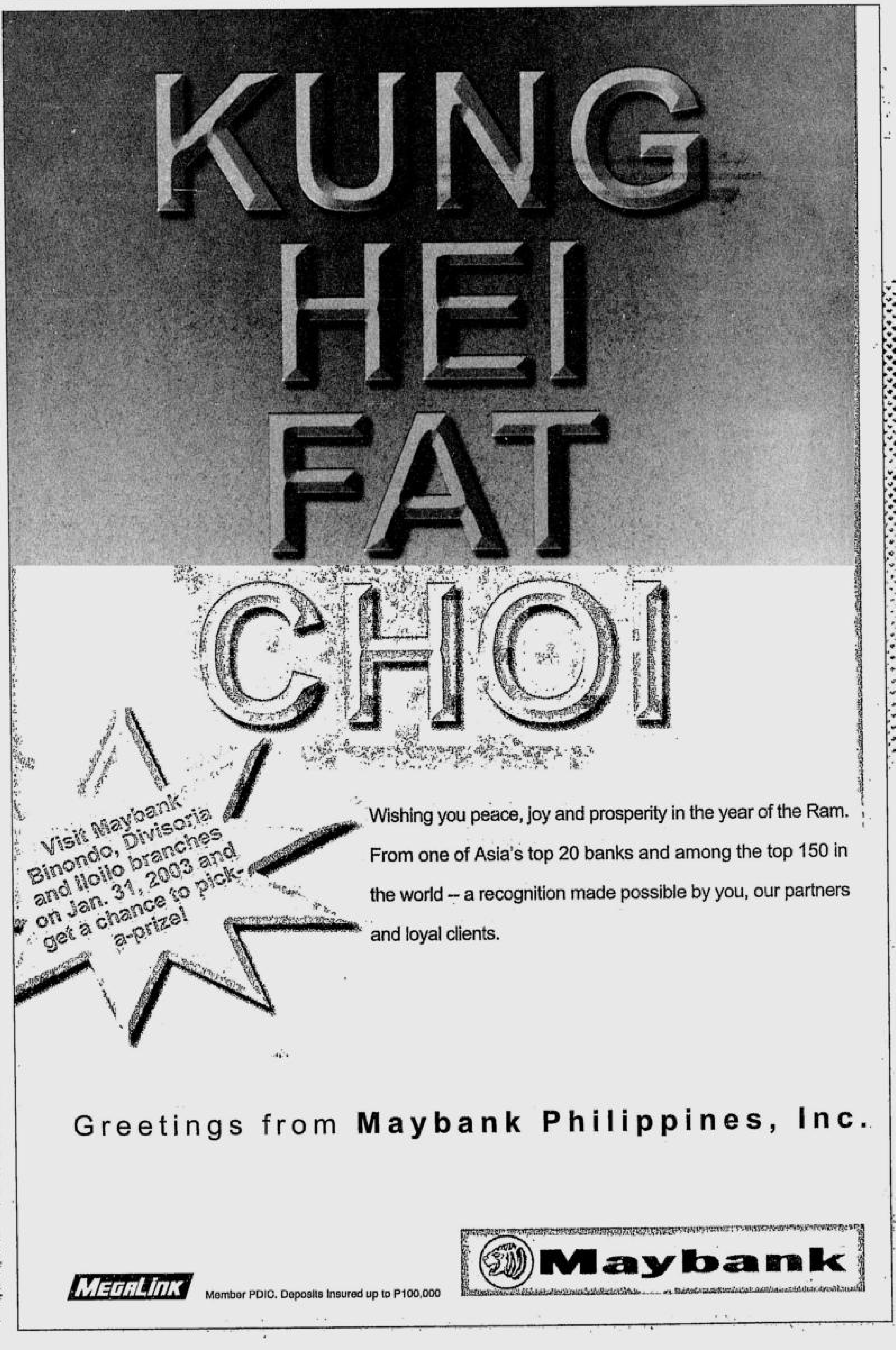
Maybank Philippines recently announced the availability of the Maybank AddVantage Plus, a 5-year, time deposit account that could yield as much as the current rate of 8 percent interest per annum and exempted from withholding tax (provided the deposit is maintained for the entire 5-year-term). The interest earnings are credited monthly to any of the depositor's Maybank Savings, Current or Premier account. The Maybank AddVantage Plus requires only a minimum deposit of P25,000 and can be opened at any Maybank branch. This product is ideal for those who want to get the most out of their medium-term savings since it offers one of the highest interest rates in the market today.

An optional revolving credit line is also available for those who open an account. Aside from these, depositors will also have the flexibility of immediately enjoying the monthly interest earned and need not wait after the full 5-year term of the loan. With the monthly interest credited to their Maybank savings or current account, depositors can have extra funds to meet their periodic expenses or cash requirements.

For a limited time during the launch, depositors who open a Maybank AddVantage Plus are entitled to a free Swatch watch in the James Bond collection series.

The Maybank AddVantage Plus actually evolved from its forerunner product the Maybank AddVantage Fixed, which was launched last year for depositors who wanted to maximize their earnings on their savings investments. Similarly, this product is available in any Maybank branch, and requires an affordable amount of P25,000. Interest earnings are likewise exempt from withholding tax if maintained throughout the term. Currently, depositors can earn as much as 9 percent interest per annum on this product, although the interest earnings are accrued and can be withdrawn only after the 5-year term.

The newly launched Maybank AddVantage Plus is just one of the products of Maybank, which is among the top 20 banks in Asia and one of the top 130 banks in the world.



Visit Maybank Binondo, Divisoria and Iloilo branches on Jan. 31, 2003 and get a chance to pick-a-prize!

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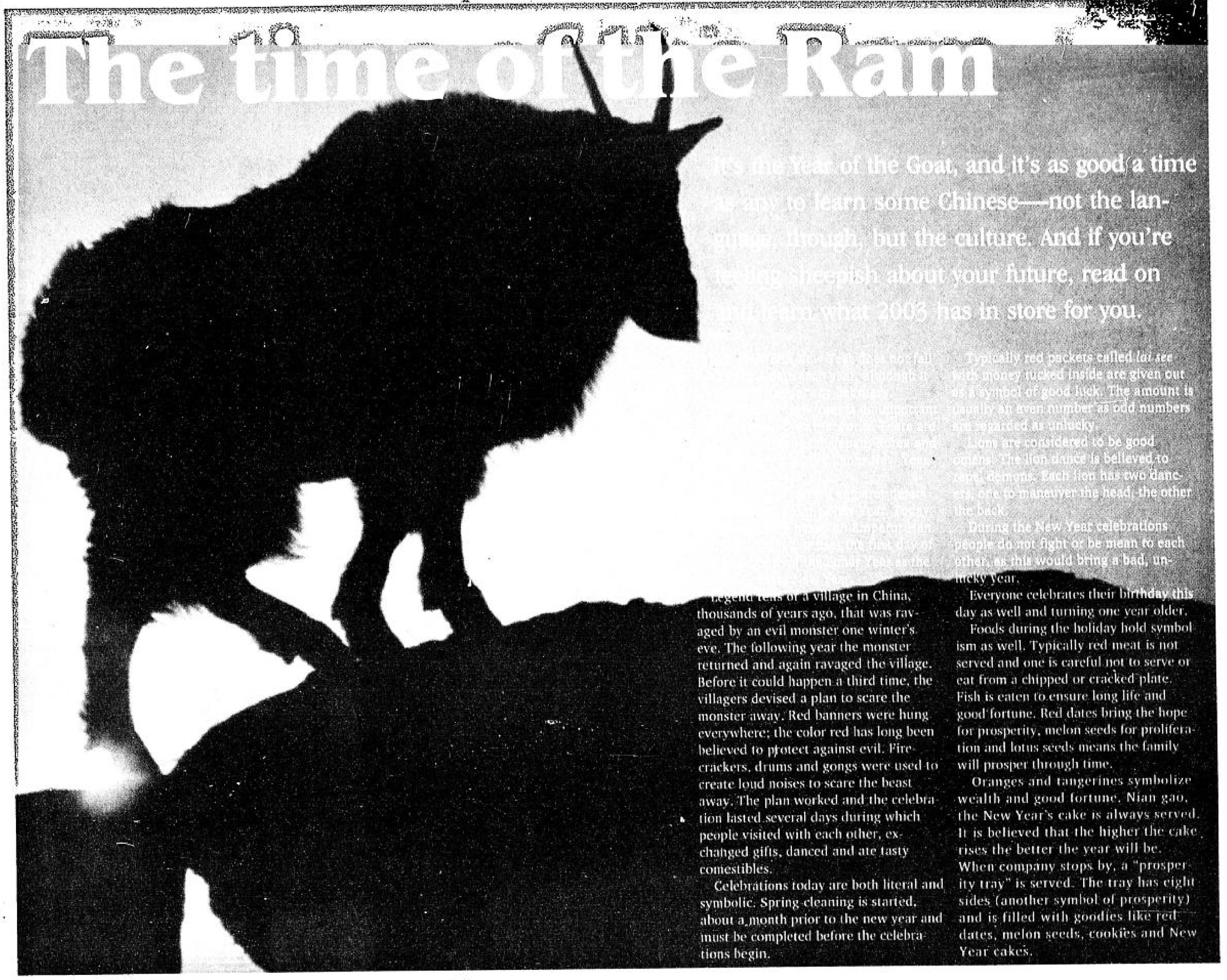
The time of the Ram



It's the Year of the Goat, and it's as good a time as any to learn some Chinese—not the language, though, but the culture. And if you're feeling sheepish about your future, read on and learn what 2003 has in store for you.

[illegible]

Legend tells of a village in China, thousands of years ago, that was ravaged by an evil monster one winter's eve. The following year the monster returned and again ravaged the village. Before it could happen a third time, the villagers devised a plan to scare the monster away. Red banners were hung everywhere; the color red has long been believed to protect against evil. Firecrackers, drums and gongs were used to create loud noises to scare the beast away. The plan worked and the celebration lasted several days during which people visited with each other, exchanged gifts, danced and ate tasty comestibles.

Celebrations today are both literal and symbolic. Spring cleaning is started, about a month prior to the new year and must be completed before the celebrations begin.

Typically red packets called *lai see* with money tucked inside are given out as a symbol of good luck. The amount is usually an even number as odd numbers are regarded as unlucky.

Lions are considered to be good omens. The lion dance is believed to repel demons. Each lion has two dancers, one to maneuver the head, the other the back.

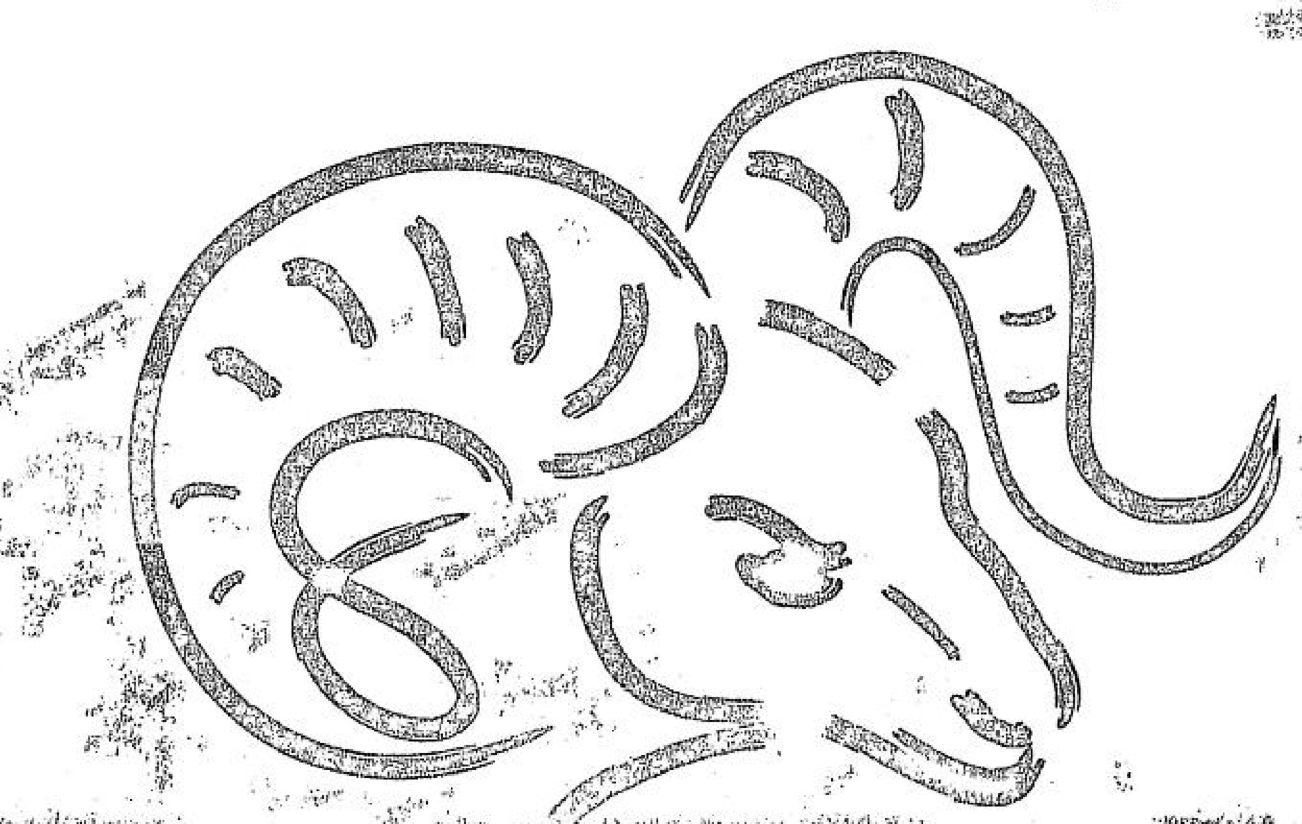
During the New Year celebrations people do not fight or be mean to each other, as this would bring a bad, unlucky year.

Everyone celebrates their birthday this day as well and turning one year older.

Foods during the holiday hold symbolism as well. Typically red meat is not served and one is careful not to serve or eat from a chipped or cracked plate. Fish is eaten to ensure long life and good fortune. Red dates bring the hope for prosperity, melon seeds for proliferation and lotus seeds means the family will prosper through time.

Oranges and tangerines symbolize wealth and good fortune. Nian gao, the New Year's cake is always served. It is believed that the higher the cake rises the better the year will be. When company stops by, a "prosperity tray" is served. The tray has eight sides (another symbol of prosperity) and is filled with goodies like red dates, melon seeds, cookies and New Year cakes.

KONG HSI FA CHAI !



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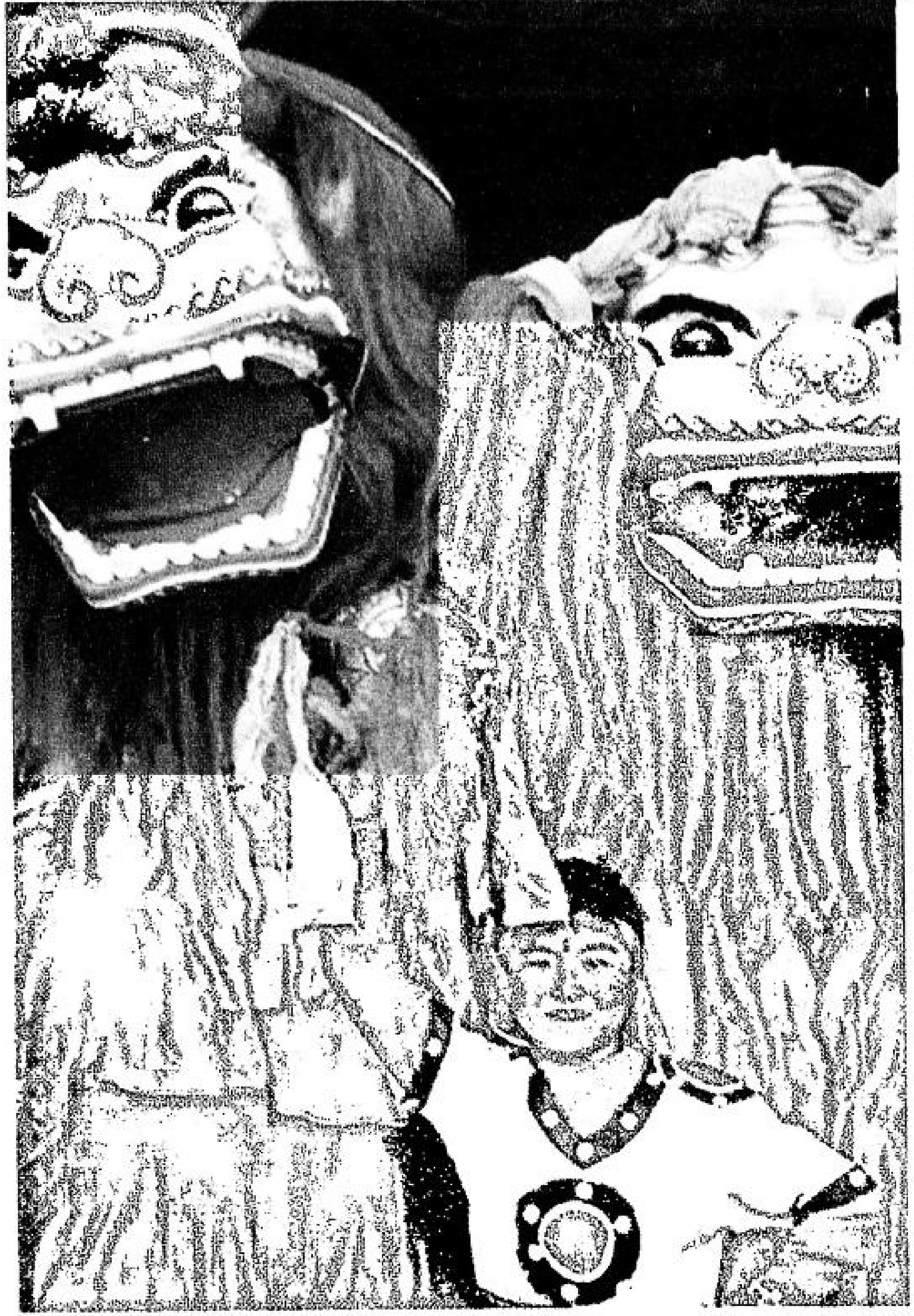
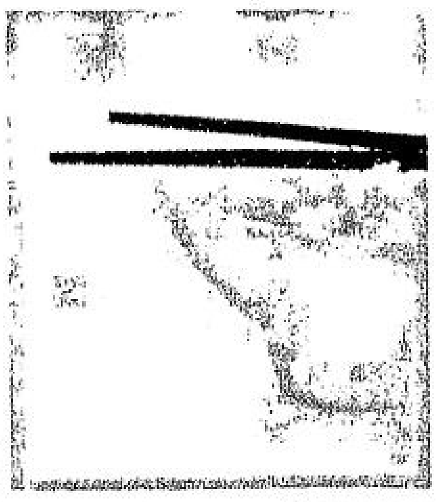


Lions are considered to be good omens. The lion dance is believed to repel demons. Each lion has two dancers, one to maneuver the head, the other the backLions are considered to be good omens. The lion dance is believed to repel demons. Each lion has two dancers, one to maneuver the head, the other the back

Chopsticks?



THERE are actually several types of chopsticks. Japanese chopsticks are pointed, while Chinese chopsticks have blunt ends. Typically, Chinese chopsticks are the longest and made of bamboo. Korean chopsticks are medium in size and made of a silver material. There are chopsticks used specifically for cooking and some for eating. Each person has his or her own set of chopsticks that are kept in a box.

How to Use Chopsticks:

Rest the upper half of one stick between your thumb and forefinger on your right hand (or left, if you're left-handed).

Hold the lower half of the stick firmly against your ring finger.

Hold the second chopstick as you would hold a pencil.

To work the chopsticks, keep the first stick stationary.

Move the second stick up and down to pick up your food.

This takes practice, but once you get the hang of it, you won't be able to stop.

Here are some guidelines for using chopsticks authentically:

Chopsticks should never be stuck in or used as spears for food.

Do not pass food from your chopsticks to someone else's.

Don't use your chopsticks at a pointer or wave them around to express yourself.

Tea Trivia

ACCORDING to an ancient Chinese legend, around 2737 BC Emperor Shen Nung was a very health conscious man and was known as the "Divine Healer". He always boiled his water before drinking it. One day while he was boiling his water a few fallings leaves from a nearby tree landed in the water. The aroma was so enchanting he decided to taste it and declared it heaven sent.

There are three types of teas made from tea leaves: Green, Black and Oolong. There are also "herbal teas" that are not really teas at all, as they are not actually made with tea leaves. Tea is the national drink of China. It contains vitamins, oils and fluoride. It also contains caffeine and some types are used as a diuretic. Green Tea was used for medicinal purposes long before is was used as a beverage. The Chinese believe that tea drinkers have an increased life span.

Green Tea does not go through the fermenting process. Steeped green tea is light green to jade in color and has the aroma of vegetables.

Black Tea (or red as it is referred to in China) is made by allowing the tea to ferment after picking. Steeped black tea is reddish brown to deep brown in color and has a thick, almost malt-like aroma.

Oolong Tea is a combination of the two. This tea will vary quite a bit in color and aroma.

To make a good pot of tea:

Use good water with low mineral content avoid hard water.

Bring the water to a near boil or just to a boil but no more.

The amount of tea leaves will depend on the type of tea used.

Steep 1-5 minutes before pouring. (Green teas*one minute)

Subsequent pots of tea using the same leaves needs to be lengthen.

*Green tea should be brewed at a lower temperature.

Interested in reading tea leaves?

Reading tea leaves is personal and intuitive but this will get you started. Drink your tea slowly until there is just a small amount of tea at the bottom of the cup. Swirl the cup three times and turn the cup upside down to drain the tea. Now turn your cup over. What do you see?

The leaves closer to the rim will tell the near future.

The leaves down in the base of the cup tell of the distant future.

Look at the leaves and form pictures (like you look at clouds).

Interpretation will vary quite a bit but here are a few items that seem to have universal meanings.

bells - good news
chain - success but requires work
cross - suffering
fish - new or travel abroad
key - solving of a mystery of finding lost items
egg - fertility
flowers - love
spider luck

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A quick reference to your Chinese zodiac

THE CHINESE calendar is a based on the cycles of the moon. The start of the New Year begins anywhere from late January to mid-February. A complete lunar cycle takes 60 years. It is composed of five cycles that are 12 years each. Each 12-year segment is named after an animal. According to legend, Buddha called all the animals to him before he departed from earth. Only twelve came and as a reward to them he named the years after them in the order they arrive (the order is listed below). It is believed the animal ruling of the year you are born effects your personality and "it is the animal that hides in your heart".

Furthermore, the Chinese Calendar uses the stem-branch system. The branches are the 12 years. There are ten stems that are used in the counting system. The stems are metal, water, wood, fire and soil; each having a yang and a yin side. There are a lot more intricacies in the system but you should also know that the elements correlate to colors. Metal=white or golden, water=black, wood=green, fire=red, and soil=brown.

When you put all of this together you end up with the following:

2000 is the Year of the White or Golden Dragon
2001 is the Year of the White or Golden Snake
2002 is the Year of the Black Horse
2003 is the Year of the Black Sheep
2004 is the Year of the Green Monkey
2005 is the Year of the Green Rooster

Get your Chinese Zodiac T's here.
What's your sign?

Rat	1960	1972	1984	1996	
Ox	1961	1973	1985	1997	
Tiger	1962	1974	1986	1998	
Rabbit	1963	1975	1987	1999	
Dragon		1964	1976	1988	2000
Snake	1965	1977	1989	2001	
Horse	1966	1978	1990	2002	
Sheep	1967	1979	1991	2003	
Monkey		1968	1980	1992	2004
Rooster		1969	1981	1993	2005
Dog	1970	1982	1994	2006	
Pig	1971	1983	1995	2007	

Please note the lunar calendar New Year determines which zodiac sign you fall under. If you were born in early January you should follow the zodiac symbol for the previous year. If you are born in late January or early February it gets tricky. If the year you were born is not listed, keep adding twelve to your birth year until you match one of the years listed.

Rat

In the year of the Goat, those born in the year of the Rat will have a turn in luck. Business will gain in short ventures and workers will have a chance of a promotion and a raise in salary. Your guardians of nobility will come from the east. Your chances to go overseas will rise. There will also be chances of falling in love. An ideal partner could be born of the Cow, Dragon or Monkey years. Those born in the year of Rat should keep a short and neat haircut. Health will be normal. Just take note of minor injuries and try to drink less.

Career

Career luck for this year will be good. There will be chances all around. Although career luck is good, you will still have to take note of vile characters giving you trouble. Your best time for the year will be in the Lunar 1st, 6th, 11th and 12th months. You should treasure the chances to gain success. No matter how busy you get, always remember that safety comes first.

Wealth

Those born in the year of the Rat will gain a lot of unexpected money in the year of the Goat. No matter how good your wealth luck will be, you will have to try to avoid drinking. You must also not turn greedy. You will gain what you deserve as long as you listen to these two things.

Health

Although you have unlucky stars shining on you, your lucky stars will also be protecting you. Having a short and neat haircut will be good. Stay away from group activities and do not stress yourself out. Stay away from liquor as it may harm your body.

Love

The Love star will shine on you this year. Your love luck will be good. It is best to choose partners born of the years Dragon, Cow or Monkey. For those who are married, it is advisable to stay away from extra-marital relationships for it may cause you trouble that you are not able to cope with.

Ox

The unlucky stars Sui Po, Lan Gan, Da Yan, Yue Sha, Tian Gou, Diao Ke, Fu Shi, Jian Feng, Shang Men and Zai Sha will fall on you this year. This causes those born in the year of the Ox to have a lot of problems. With the help of lucky stars Yi Ma and Hua Gai protecting you and as long as you are alert and careful, there should be less problems. Being born in the year of Ox, lots of obstacles will be coming this year. Things will not go smoothly causing some money to be lost. As the character of those born in the year of Ox is straightforward, they tend to work with a serious attitude and they work hard. With this attitude shown, problems will be easily solved.

Career

As those born in the year of Ox will be in conflict with the Tai Sui this year. Lucky stars will help to ease those conflicts. Although lots of obstacle will be involved in your career, straightforward characteristics and a good attitude in your work will help you to solve problems easily.

Wealth

Males are advised not to have any investments his year. They should stick to what they are doing at the moment. They should be more cheerful and polite so as not to offend anyone or they will surely encounter gossips and quarrels. When dealing with relatives, you should not believe others easily as you may get cheated.

Health

Although your overall luck is not considered good, your health luck is good which is a blessing in itself. You must be careful when going outdoors as you may get into accidents or injured. Try not to take too much unhealthy food such as fried stuff. Eat more fruit. You may fall sick but it will be of no problem.

Love

Love life for married couples will not be that good. Stress at work will worsen causing quarrels at home. You must try to control your emotions. Unmarried couples will meet with lots of obstacles in love. There will be vile characters causing problems between you and your partner. Couples should give in to each other more. Those born in the year of Ox will be in conflict with the Tai Sui this year. It is advised for them to make offerings to Tai Sui for safety and peace. You should learn how to pray at the altar for your own safety. Make offerings to the Tai Sui in temples. Peace and safety will come for the whole year.

Tiger

This year, the Zi Wei, Long De and Tian Xi lucky stars will shine on you. The Love star, Tai Yin Pa and Tai Yang will also be by your side throughout the year. With this, your luck will be considered excellent. There will only be some minor problems but your luck will be a lot better than last year. Those born in the year of Tiger are in a sense more daring and bold. With this you will have to be careful in the year of Goat. You will need to know how to grab chances in what you are doing. Be careful with people you mix with. If not, they may cheat you. Although luck is very good this year and you have a strong will to carve out a career, you will still encounter some problems. Do not expect any rewards without hard work. Be extra careful even with small problems, for they may cause you bigger troubles. Wealth luck will be good this year and your love life will be sweet but you will need to pay a little attention to your health.

Career

It is more favourable for males than for females in the Goat year. Females will find it hard to start a career this year. They will encounter problems and obstacles that will slow them down. If the obstacles become persistent, you should try to change luck by wearing a San Bao Chain or Liu Bao Chuan to help improve the situation. For males, your career luck will be smooth. Although they will be met with minor problems, they will be solved in no time.

Wealth

Although those born in the year of the Tiger will have good luck, with help from the guardians of nobility, their career will be very good. But their indirect wealth luck will be very unstable. They should not lend too much hope on it. There is a Wang Shen on Tiger people this year. Wealth will be coming in and going out all the time. They should look after their money well else they will end up with little. It is best to have a stable income. Females should not invest in chances like 4D or (Lotteries) Toto. They should avoid gambling for they may get hooked.

Health

It will be very hard to achieve perfect health this year. Those born in the year of Tiger will not have good health this year. They should avoid getting injuries from outdoor activities. You must not only take note of diet, but also be careful when outdoors, especially when concerned with traffic safety.

Love

There will be a love star and Tian Xi shining on those born in the year of Tiger. Love life will be sweet. This year will also be suitable for marriage. Married couples will have a chance of a new member in the family. If planned carefully, moving into a new house will be possible. The only problem foreseen in these relationships comes from extra-marital relationships.

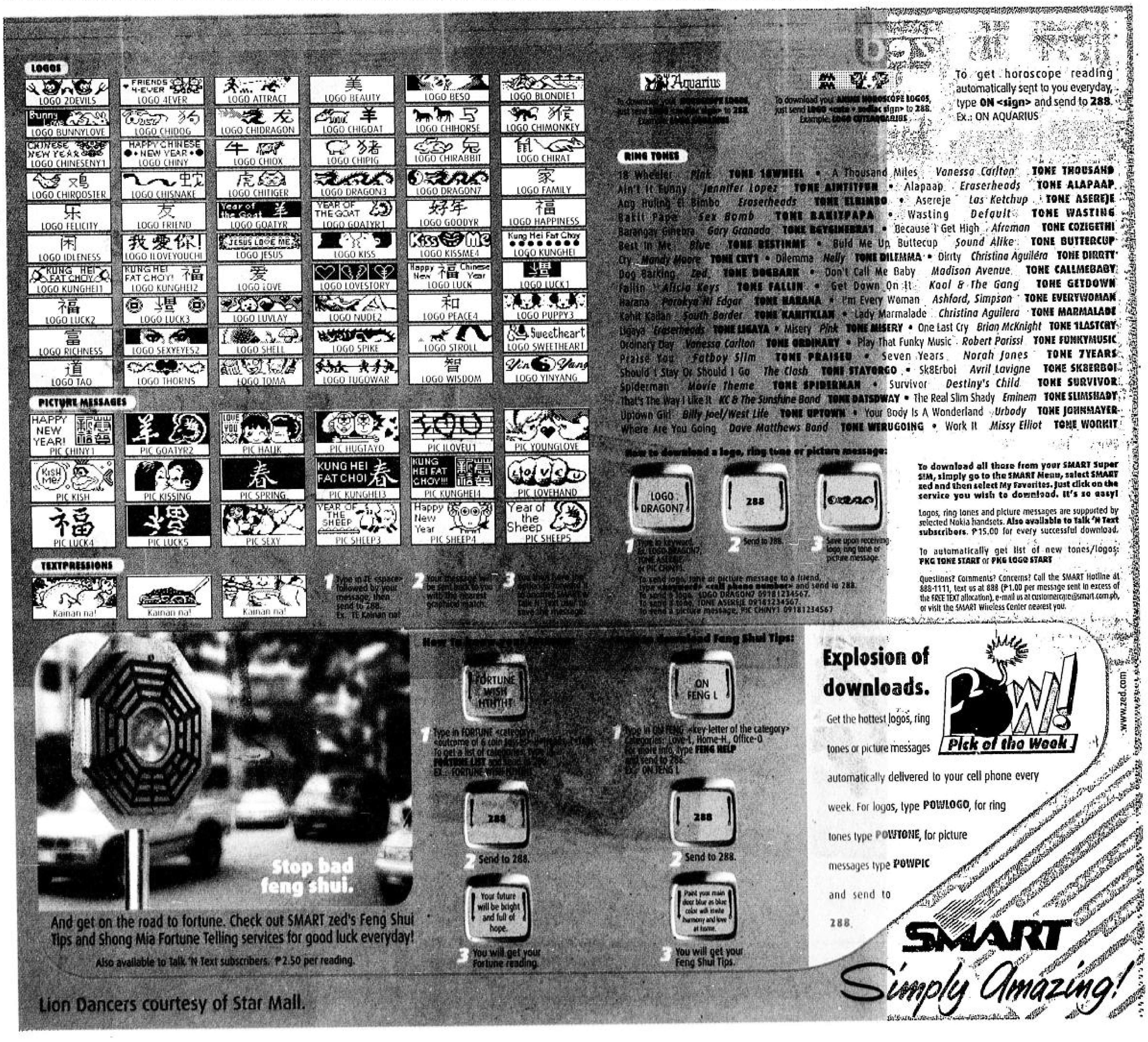
Rabbit

Those born in the year of the rabbit will have good luck this year. Dreams of career and wealth can be made to come true. The only problem for one born in the year of the rabbit is in their character. They're indecisive. This type of characteristic will affect your overall luck in a bad way. There will be a lot of chances around in the year of Goat. You must treasure them. Chances don't come easily. You should make good use of the chance to carve out a career. There will be nine months in the year of the goat where those born in the year of Rabbit will have good luck. On the lunar 4th, 7th and 9th months you'll encounter bad luck. You must make good use of these treasured chances. Gaining wealth will not only be a dream, it'll become reality. You should look out for some small problems around and beware of being framed be evil characters.

Career

Those born in the year of Rabbit can plan carefully to set up a career this year but you must be very careful and must not be afraid of the outcomes. You must not be indecisive for chances are sometimes hard to find. For those at work, it might get a little tough. You just need to be optimistic and things will easily be settled. Try changing your attitude towards your colleagues for it might help if you meet with problems at work. Try proving yourself at work. Work harder. Promotion and a raise will be possible. Males must be careful of evil characters around causing troubles and gossips.

ZODIAC/K4



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Lion Dancers courtesy of Star Mall.

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A quick reference to your Chinese zodiac

From page K3

Wealth

With the help of your lucky stars, you will gain both from your direct and indirect wealth. Investors should grab chances to earn more money and salaried workers will have chances for promotion and a raise in salary.

Health

Health is considered normal. You must be careful of knife injuries. Be careful of falling down, hitting objects and getting hurt. If injured, you should seek medical attention immediately. Diet for the elderly should be light. Stay away from spicy and oily food. As for your career being better, entertaining and entertainment is a must. Try to stay away from alcohol and cigarettes.

Love

Although you may be busy with your career, never neglect your partner, especially those of you who are married. Those who are looking for partners will note that this is not a good year. WAIT! You have someone on your mind but fate is not up to standard yet.

Dragon

Those born in the year of the dragon have been experiencing unstable luck within the past few years. There will be a change of luck this year. They have a very strong fighting spirit in them. There will be lots of working chances all around. The year of the Goat will be the best year of the past 4 years. As those born in the year of the Dragon do have a weak will, it will be essential for them to have people beside them giving them support and advice. They possess a special talent that when they take over something, a company that is in a bad condition or something broken, they are able to make it better or something better from the pieces. If the talent is wisely used, it will be very good for one born in the year of the Dragon.

Career

It will be a year for those born in the year of Dragon to have good career luck. There will be lucky stars like Tian De and Fu Xing and with the help of Tai yin and Hong Luan, bad stars like Juan She, Pi Ma and Gou Jiao will not give them any problems. With the help of guardians of nobility and their own fighting spirit, there will be unexpected rewards. But there will be some gossip that will fall upon you. You should try to avoid all this. There will, however, be evil characters around causing gossips but your guardians of nobility will help to ease the troubles that befall. There will be a lot of chances for you to gain wealth especially in the lunar 1st, 3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th and 12th months. These will be the six months where those born in the year of Dragon can gain both direct and indirect wealth. You should avoid gossip and not be a busybody. You should give way to people in times of quarrels.

Health

It will be a year for you to encounter weaker health. There will be some sickness especially relating to the internal organs. Be careful of old sicknesses reoccurring. You must be very careful of this. For older people their diet should be light. Try spending more time resting. When going outdoors, be careful of water related accidents.

Love

There will be a Hong Luan (God of Love) in the year of the Goat and a shining love will blossom. There will be chances for couples to prepare for a marriage. For married couples, one should be careful of Tao Hua coming. It will affect a married couple's relationship causing lot of quarrels, which could end up in a divorce. Loss of wealth will follow.

Snake

Those born in the year of the Snake will have unstable luck in the year of the Goat. Lots of problems and obstacles will appear in the things you do. With the star of Yi Ma shining, you will become very busy throughout the year. Although you lack in good luck, you have a clear mind and when met with problems, you will know how to handle them. You have a special characteristic, which is why you meet up with problems. You tend to have a better attitude to solving them and when you have nothing in hand, you will feel bored. It will be the year for those of the Snake to be very busy. You will have a lot of chances to go aboard in the year whether a vacation or a business trip as the Yi Ma Star is shining on you.

Career

Luck may not be good and it will be a challenging year. You must be careful of sudden changes in investments. You must also not be another person's guarantor or lend money to friends. As the Yi Ma star will be present, those born in the year of the Snake will be out of the country often throughout the year investing or working. No matter investing or working, always plan carefully what you do. By doing so, you will get better results. When investing with high budgets, you must be very careful.

Wealth

Wealth luck will not be that good. There will be a standard income and you must not be too greedy towards indirect wealth. Lottery and gambling activities should be avoided, try not to get involved with these activities in order not to lose wealth. As you are always running around, hard earned money should be treasured. You should plan and use your money wisely. Those born in the year of the Snake should not get involved in high budget investments in the first half of the year in order not to lose money. If you want to do so, it is best to do it after the lunar 6th month and when doing it, you should still naturally plan carefully.

Health

As those born in the year of the Snake keep running around because of work, lots of stress will appear causing loss of concentration. With this, their health will deteriorate. Try doing some exercises and rest more to relieve stress. For older people, they should be careful of illness especially relating to their joints. Beware of traffic safety. Females will experience pains, be more careful and do not catch colds.

Love

Love life will be normal. You will sometimes feel stress at work, which may cause quarrels at home with partners. Try controlling your emotions. Maintain a happy mood. Try to talk more to your partner about work and how you feel. Those born in the year of the Snake will have chances of travelling abroad. Try not to go to nightspots as you may get into trouble affecting your family members back home.

Horse

Those born in the year of the Horse will have lucky stars shining on them. Things might not go smoothly but with the help of the Liu He, they can be settled easily. Workers will have a chance of a promotion and a raise in the year to come. They will have to show their ability at work. Investors will have lots of business tips where they will earn money in the year. Those born in the year of the Horse should control their temper and build better relationships all around for it will help luck along. Their health will not be that good in the year although they gain much wealth. Their wealth luck will be very good where they will gain both from direct and indirect wealth. They will have lots of problems with health this year and should be very careful. They should not turn into busybodies in the year and should try to give in at times of quarrels. With this they can avoid lots of unwanted troubles.

Career

Career luck will be very good. It will be very smooth with no problems in the bottom half of the year. Although some minor problems will occur. Your guardians of nobility will appear helping you to be rid of them. Those born in the year of Horse will need to maintain good relationships with people all round. They must not become too proud and must control their temper for they may be at risk of friends and family members leaving them. Although career luck is good, you may attract gossip and quarrels. One should try to give in to whatever problems that are worth caring for.

Wealth

Those born in the year of the Horse will have very good wealth luck especially in the bottom half of the year. Incoming wealth will be good where direct wealth keeps coming and coming. Indirect wealth will also keep coming but do not become greedy. You must also take note of your things going missing. Your direct wealth comes from the help of the guardians of nobility at work and your good relationships. Be careful of your money and try keeping some savings for rainy days.

Health

There will be an unlucky star Bing Fu on you this year, which causes illness for you. Those with breathing problems should be extra careful and when feeling unwell, they should quickly seek treatment. Stay happy and do more exercises for it will be very good for your health. Try to keep a healthy diet to keep the illness away. Old people should be careful not to fall down, knock into things and generally hurting themselves.

QUICK/JI

Welcome!
Year of the Goat
PUPUNG
Kung Hei Fat Choi!

CHINESE LION / DRAGON DANCE
Drum rolls for the Chinese Lion and Dragon Dance as we all welcome
the Year of the Goat at Ever Gotesco Malls
Take part in this festive event on Jan. 31 at The Manila Plaza, Feb. 1 at
Ever Commonwealth and Feb. 2 at Ever Ortigas,
Ever Grand Plaza and Ever Grand Central
to bring happiness, prosperity and luck to YEAR 2003

WUSHU EXHIBITION
Come to **Ever Ortigas** on **Feb. 1** and **Ever Commonwealth** on **Feb. 2**!!!
On these dates at 4pm, you shall witness the compilation of all Chinese martial arts
thru this amazing **WUSHU Exhibition.**

CHINESE COOKING DEMOS
Let us all learn the Chinese way of cooking!!! Go and satisfy your
craving for those tempting Chinese cuisines with the Chinese Cooking Demos
brought to us by Monterey at **Ever Ortigas** on **Jan. 31** at **3pm**
and by Maggi at **Ever Commonwealth** on **Feb. 1** at **2pm.**

MONTEREY MEATSHOP
Maggi

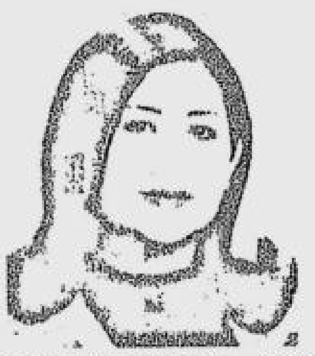
CHINATOWN
Pop in at Chinatown, Ever Gotesco Malls!!! You don't have to go that far
for your favorite Chinese foods, ornaments and other delicacies.
Be at the **Ground Floor, Mall Atrium I** of **Ever Ortigas** and **Upper Ground Floor,**
Exhibit Area of **Ever Commonwealth** from **Jan. 20** to **Feb. 2** and grab your Chinese goodies.

Ever GOTESCO malls
ORTIGAS • COMMONWEALTH • GRAND CENTRAL • RECTO

PANA
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

Philippine Association of National Advertisers

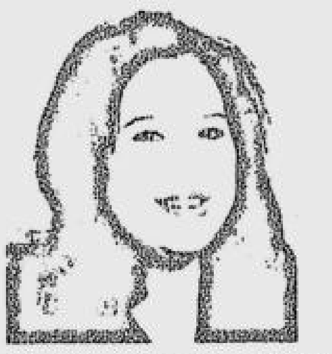
1st General Membership Meeting and Induction Ceremonies



CARMINIA B. RODRIGUEZ "GIGI"
President
AVP–Media, Events & Allian
CITIBANK, N.A.

JONES [illegible] CAMPOS "JONES"
Vice President
Head–Public Relations
GLOBE TELECOM

[illegible] ALCANTARA JR. "JUN"
Treasurer
VP–Marketing
ASIA BREWERY INC



SUSIE ACHACOSO CRUZ "SUSIE"
Secretary
Marketing Manage
GODIVA INC.

FORTUNATO D. BABASA "ATOY"
Auditor
Managing Director Domestic Spirit
THE ANDRESONS GROUP INC.

SANDRA D. GARCIA
PRO
Marketing Manager
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA CORPORATION

RAUL S. ALVAREZ "RAUL"
AVP–Marketing Services
PLDT

SANDRA C. PUNO
VP–Media Relation
NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES INC.

EMILIO L. SAMSON "JOJO"
Executive Director
MCDONALD'S PHILIPPINES

ANGELICA P. SUIZA "ANGGE"
Marketing Director
ADIDAS PHILIPPINES INC.

GINA R. VIRTUSIO
Corporate Communications Manager
SUPERFERRY

DR. NONIE S. AZARCON, DBA
Executive Director

Messages

I CONVEY my warm greetings to the men and women of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA) on your 1st General Membership Meeting and Induction Ceremonies.

I commend the officers and members of PANA for your achievements in the field of advertising. Your success bespeaks of the Filipino's creativity, industry and cooperation. It also reflects the continued dynamic spirit of marketing entities in our country. Indeed, your accomplishments, along with many other industry groups, complement our government's efforts in creating a vibrant business environment.

The advertising industry has been a constant contributor to the Philippine economic growth. I am confident that you will continue to contribute to our vision of a strong Philippine Republic. I wish the fruitful culmination of this event and urge all of you to continue your notable endeavors for the benefit of the underprivileged members of our society.

Mabuhay at maraming salamat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MY warmest felicitations to the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA) on its first General Membership Meeting and Induction of 2003 Officers and Board of Directors on January 31, 2003. May the newly inducted officers and directors be guided with inspiration and zeal as they assume their duties.

Advertising is an essential factor in the marketing of services and goods and, therefore, plays an important role in the country's economy. I laud this eminent association of distinguished advertisers for its steadfast commitment to promote public confidence through the promotion of truth in advertising and by calling attention to practices which tend to undermine that confidence. Since its establishment in 1958, PANA has metamorphosed into a potent force in the country's economic progress.

PANA, formed by advertisers for advertisers, is the only organization in the country that unites the users of advertising. The list of its many achievements includes spearheading the establishment of the Advertising Board of the Philippines, the Audit Council for print media, as well as organizing the Radio Research Council and Television Research Council.

May this event inspire you to uplift the standards and practices of advertising. I exhort the members to continue working towards the improvement of national advertising, as this will certainly contribute to the betterment of the nation.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA JR.
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

GREETINGS!

I would like to convey my warmest felicitations to the distinguished officers and members of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA) on the occasion of its First General Membership Meeting and Induction of 2003 Officers and Board of Directors to be held on January 31, 2003 at the Manila Hotel.

I congratulate the men and women of PANA for spearheading and organizing this important event for the advertising industry. It is a welcome undertaking as it manifests the continued vigor and dynamism of your sector. Needles to say, activities such as this will further promote the advocacies and interests of advertisers and the industries that support them. It also clearly shows the stability and unity of PANA and its commitment to its members and the general public.

As the torch is passed to the new officers and directors, I trust that they will steadfastly pursue the avowed goals of PANA and bring the organization to greater heights. I also commend the outgoing officers for their hard work in the past year. I wish the participants a meaningful and harmonious discussion of the conference's objectives.

More power to PANA and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

FRANKLIN DRILON
Senate President

WELCOME to 2003, the Challenging Business Year!

As we start the year, we expect new challenges along the way. The changing media landscape, the industry concerns and other issues, be it political, global or local issues that can affect our business decisions.

PANA as an organization embraces its memberships from the top advertisers to the simple budget advertisers, which contributes to the mainstream of advertising and marketing funds. We are the prime mover and the lifeblood of the advertising and marketing industry.

We have a common mission why "Truth in Advertising" shall prevail and that is for the "Consumer Welfare".

We may be competitors in the field but we are partners in nation building, we may have indifference in opinions but we share the same vision of service to the country, we may be just mere volunteers in this endeavor but we are the movers of the advertising industry.

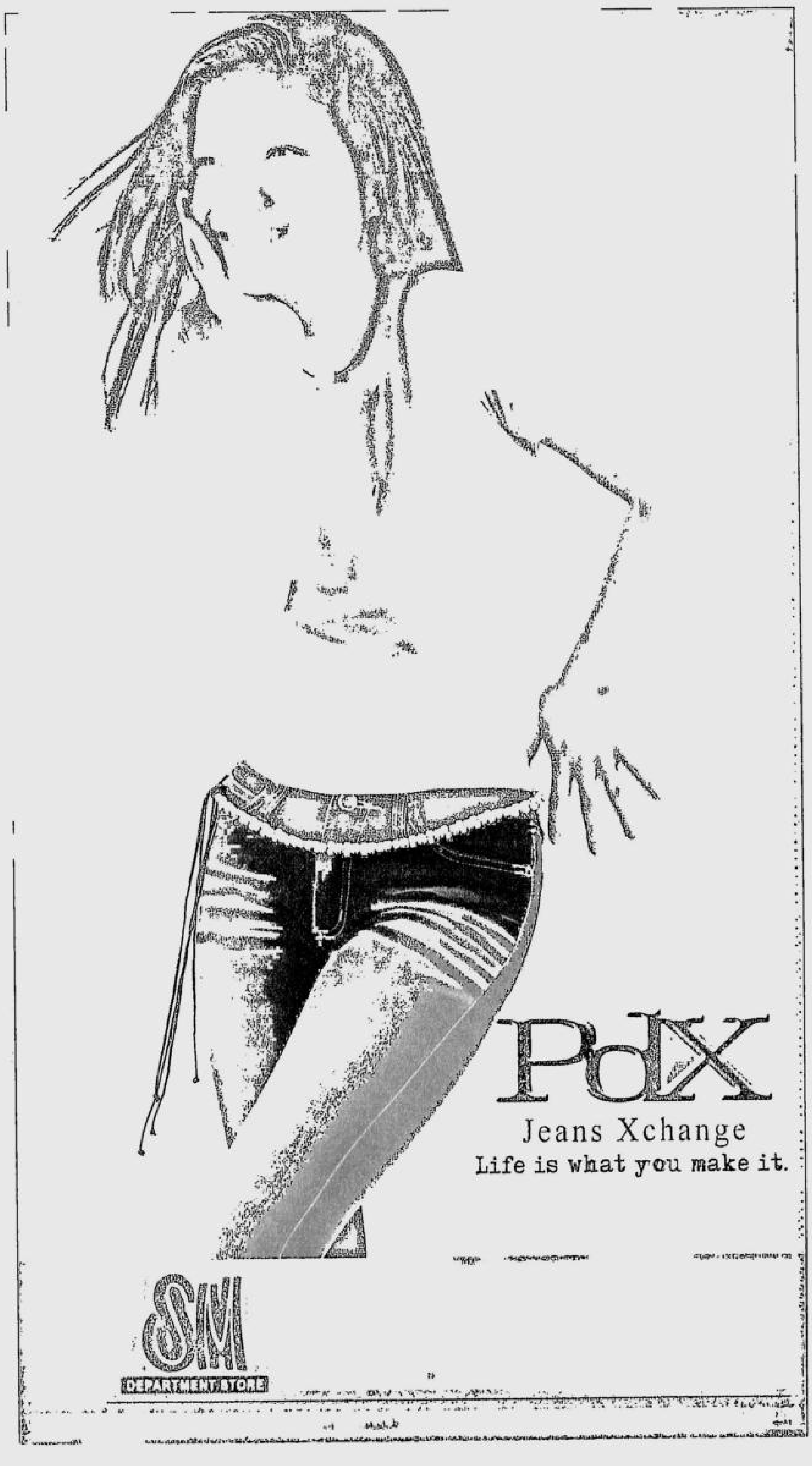
PANA is cognizant of the role it plays. It spearheaded educational seminars, marketing and communication awards events, conventions and the successful Diploma Course tie-up with St. Benilde. PANA has always a good representation in the Advertising Board of the Philippines especially in the ACRC and TPCC committees, has active interface with associations and civic projects.

I am honored to be called once again to lead the way. As PANA president for the second time, I thank my fellow PANA members, PANA Board of Directors, media friends and industry alliances for their trust and support. It is indeed a fulfilling experience to serve PANA.

It is my vision to put PANA in a pedestal. The trust, cooperation and unity of the entire PANA membership will help us achieve this vision. We are family, let us speak one voice and fight for our rights. Let not power and money lead the battle but virtue of truth, unified mission and love for consumers be our battlecry!

On behalf of the 2003 PANA Officers and Board of Directors, our hardworking PANA secretariat and our reliable PANA executive director, we look forward to a very productive year!

(*Sgd.*)CARMINIA B. RODRIGUEZ
2003 PANA President



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Major Pana achievements

- THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers spearheaded the establishment of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and the Audit Council for print media. A former Pana president as the first elected chair was instrumental in successfully steering the two organizations through the initial years.

- Pana resolved conflicts on ethical issues among member advertisers through its ethics committee. It was also instrumental in the removal and/or revision of a number of controversial and objectionable ads.

- It was the first organization in the industry to adopt the International Code of Advertising Practice and to enforce such code among its members. It undertook truth-in-advertising campaigns among its members.

- Pana represented advertisers' and advertising's interests before executive and legislative bodies regarding proposed measures and rules and regulations affecting advertising. It opposed a number of unfavorable proposed legislations and regulations, and at the same time assisted in formulating and drafting guidelines bearing on advertising, such as the sales promotions rules being used by the Department of Trade and Industry.

- It participated in and represented the advertisers in the drafting of rules and regulations on advertising practice worked out by the government and the industry (for a period of one year of weekly meetings).

- It negotiated and worked out acceptable guidelines and standards of business relationships with other sectors and interests in the industry represented by 4As (then APAA and Lapis), KBP, Primo, and Asap.

- It successfully opposed moves to increase agency commissions.

- It represented advertisers' interests on such important issues as increase in media rates, protection period for rate announcement and other business practices affecting advertisers.

- It participated in the drafting of existing guidelines for broadcast advertising.

- Pana sponsored scholarship programs workshops/seminars, and assisted educational institutions in the development of curriculum concerning advertising.

- It negotiated rate protection, preferential rates, and other concessions from media for Pana member advertisers.

- The presence of Pana in itself has generally served as a deterrent against unreasonable media rate increases and practices.

- In April 1987, Pana supported the position taken by five of its member companies withdrawing advertising support from a TV "showbiz" talk show. Pana's move for more wholesome programming was widely applauded by industry and consumer groups.

Founded on professionalism and camaraderie

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers, a non-profit, non-stock organization, was established in 1958 when some national advertisers got together to discuss the common problems and shortcomings of local advertising practice and the need for a body that would protect the interests of the national advertisers.

Pana is founded on four basic principles:

- The belief that advertising is an essential factor in the marketing of goods and services and, consequently, is an important factor in the economic life of the country;
- The belief that the interests of consumers should be the primary concern of advertisers and in case of conflict, the interest of the consumer should prevail;
- The belief that public confidence in advertising and advertised goods and services should be promoted and protected, and therefore any practices that tend to undermine the confidence should be prevented or corrected;
- The belief in the upliftment of the standards and practices of advertising.

Formed by advertisers for advertisers, Pana is the only organization in the country that unites the users of advertising. Its member companies comprise every major industry in the country. These companies represent a combined advertising expenditure estimated to exceed 85 percent of all national advertising in major media.

The first attempt after the war to organize those in the advertising field came with the founding of the old Advertising Club, which was conceived in 1947 and organized a year later. The membership in the Advertising Club was composed of advertisers, media representatives, agency, people, and others in related fields.

The Advertising Club, because of the diverse interests of its members, and because it was more of a social club than a professional organization, was dissolved in 1951.

It was not until 1956, when Robert Hinchman Jr. arrived in the Philippines as advertising manager of Caltex, that he and Anacleto del Rosario took an active interest in getting advertising practitioners to form an organization patterned after the US Association of National Advertisers. Their efforts resulted in an organizational meeting held on Oct. 15, 1957 at the Old Manila Overseas Press Club on Dewey Boulevard near the American Embassy. The meeting, attended by 45 representatives from various businesses, established the urgency of organizing the Pana.

The organization of Pana was carried out by a steering committee, later on called the organization committee composed of Anacleto del Rosario of Del Rosario Bros. Inc., Robert Hinchman Jr of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., Jesus T. Tanchanco of United Drug Co., Carl Van Hoven of Meralco, HD Brown of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, JK Lowry Jr of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., CW Newmann of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., R. Pertierra Jr. of Williams Equipment, Gerardo Roces of Philippine Air Lines, Nestor Trapaga of Franklin Baker Co. of the Philippines, M. Vangelle of Eternit Corp., and JD Janzon of Insular Life-FGU Insurance.

On Jan. 30, 1958, the Philippine Association of National Advertisers was born in a general meeting of representatives from 42 companies, which elected the association's 11-member board of directors.

Why should you join Pana?

THE COMBINED Pana membership of more than 326 companies, spending the equivalent of more than 85 percent of total national advertising expenditure gives the Association tremendous collective strength, and thereby a strong voice, within and outside the advertising industry. Such united strength can never be matched by any amount of individual effort.

As an organization, the Association speaks for and represents members at industry and government meetings and discussions where the interest of the national advertisers are involved.

Pana has always maintained that self-regulation is the best form of regulation for the industry, as opposed to government controls. The Association has adopted the Code of Ethics, Rules and Regulation for Advertising and Sales Promotions of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and made its strict adoption a condition of membership.

Through seminars, workshops and open forum discussions which the Association initiates or co-sponsors with other allied groups in the industry. Pana provides excellent opportunities for members to exchange experiences and ideas and to improve their advertising knowledge and level of professionalism.

The Association generally opposes any types of controls that restrict or repress the rights and freedom of advertisers in government liaison.

One of the most valuable benefits of Pana membership is personal contacts and fellowship which members are able to develop with their fellow members and between people in media and advertising agencies.

ALL ABOARD!

ABENSON
mercury drug
Gardan 250
Century Tuna
PETRON
Henkel
Pascual
MANG TOMAS
STI
Chowking
Heno de Pravia
SABA
Canon
Robinsons
UFC
PHILAM LIFE
ERICSSON
Wyeth
PSBank
GMA
KARNE NORTE

More than 50 top companies have placed ads in Libre.
What do they know that you don't?

Aimed at 600,000 working class commuters of LRT and MRT, Inquirer Libre provides a captive audience with the time to read news and advertising messages. With its crisp, exciting articles and handy size, these early morning commuters no longer sleep or do nothing inside the train. When they get off the train, they pass on their copies to officemates, friends and other family members, thus, extending the reach of the paper. But the best thing about Libre is that it is FREE. Making it perhaps the most captivating thing in transit.

The companies on board took the right vehicle to reach their market: Libre. So, what are you waiting for? Climb on board. For info on ad rates and other inquiries, call Izelle Medina (0918) 443-0941 or Jenny Rockwell (0917) 273-4103 to reserve your seat.

We've captured your market. Libre

PANA regular members as of Jan. 27, 2003

1. ABBOTT LABORATORIES PHILS.
2. ABENSON INC.
3. ACE FOODS INC.
4. ACS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
5. ADIDAS PHILIPPINES INC.
6. ADP INDUSTRIES CORPORATION
7. AGUA VIDA SYSTEMS INC.
8. AIRFREIGHT 2100 INC.
9. ALASKA MILK CORPORATION
10. ALCATEL PHILIPPINES INC.
11. ALEN INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CORP.
12. ALLIED DOMECQ PHILIPPINES INC.
13. ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES CO. INC.
14. AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES
15. AMALGAMATED SPECIALTIES CORP.
16. AMERICAN EXPRESS BANK PHILS. (SAVINGS BANK INC.)
17. AMERICAN STANDARD
18. ANSON'S GROUP OF COMPANIES
19. ARCON GROUP HOLDINGS (DAYS HOTEL)
20. ASIA BREWERY INC.
21. ASIAN HOSPITAL INC.
22. ASIATRUST BANK
23. AVESCO MARKETING CORPORATION
24. AVON COSMETICS INC.
25. AYALA CORPORATION
26. AYALA LAND INC.
27. BAGUMBUHAY INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
28. BAN KEE TRADING INC.
29. BANK OF COMMERCE
30. BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.
31. BPI FAMILY BANK
32. BASIC CLOTHING INT'L. MFTG. (COLOURS)
33. BAYER PHILIPPINES INC.
34. BENPRES HOLDINGS CORPORATION
35. BIG "E" FOODS CORPORATION
36. BOEHRINGER-INGELHEIM PHILIPPINES INC.
37. BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB (PHIL.) INC.
38. BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO PHILIPPINES
39. BURGER MACHINE HOLDINGS CORPORATION
40. BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES PHILS. INC.
41. CABLE TECHNOLOGY ASIA CORP. (STAR GROUP LTD. PHILS.)
42. CADBURY CONFECTIONARY PHILIPPINE BRANCH
43. CALIFORNIA MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
44. CANON MARKETING (PHILIPPINES) INC.
45. CARGILL PHILS. INC. (FORMERLY AGRIBRANDS)
46. CASTROL PHILIPPINES
47. CEBU PACIFIC AIR
48. CENTURY CANNING CORPORATION
49. CHANEL MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
50. CHINA BANKING CORPORATION
51. CHOWKING FOOD CORPORATION
52. CITIBANK, N.A.
53. CITIBEDS
54. CLOROX INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
55. CMG LIFE INSURANCE CO. INC
56. CMTC INTERNATIONAL MARKETING CORP.
57. COCA-COLA EXPORT CORPORATION
58. COLGATE-PALMOLIVE PHILS. INC.
59. COLLEGE ASSURANCE PLAN PHILS. INC.
60. COLLINS INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORP.
61. COLUMBIAN AUTOCAR CORPORATION
62. COMMONWEALTH FOODS INC.
63. CONCEPCION CARRIER AIRCONDITIONING CO.
64. CONSOLIDATED DAIRY & FROZEN FOOD CORP.
65. CONTINENTAL AIRLINES
66. CROSSINGS DEPARTMENT STORE
67. DAIKIN-ALEN AIRCONDITIONING INC.
68. DAVID SALONS INC.
69. DEL MONTE PHILIPPINES INC.
70. DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS (PHILS.) CORP.
71. DIAMOND LABORATORIES INC.
72. DIMSUM N' DUMPLINGS
73. DIRECT LINK INSURANCE AGENCY INC.
74. DIRECTORIES PHILS. CORPORATION
75. DKT PHILIPPINES INC.
76. DOLE PHILIPPINES INC.
77. DUMEX PHILIPPINES INC.
78. DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO MANILA
79. EASTERN TELECOMS PHILS. INC.
80. EAST WEST BANK
81. EDSAMAIL PHILIPPINES
82. EINSCO CO. INC.
83. ELECTRO GROUP INC.
84. EMPIRE EAST LAND HOLDINGS INC.
85. ENCHANTED KINGDOM INC.
86. ENERGIZER PHILIPPINES INC.
87. ENERGY FOOD & DRINKS INC.
88. EQUITABLE CARDNETWORK INC.
89. EQUITABLE PCI BANK
90. ERICSSON TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC.
91. EVER EMPORIUM
92. EVERGOOD UNLIMITED CORPORATION
93. EXCELLENCE APPLIANCE TECHNOLOGIES
94. EXPRESS TELECOMS CO. INC. (EXTELCOM)
95. EXXON MOBIL PETROLEUM & CHEMICAL HOLDINGS INC.
96. FABRIANO S.P.A. INC.
97. FEDERAL HOMES INC.
98. FESTIVAL SUPERMALL INC.
99. FIL-PACIFIC APPAREL CORP. (JAG JEANS)
100. FILCON MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
101. FIRST CHOICE FOOD CORPORATION
102. FIRST e -BANK
103. FOCUS GLOBAL INC.
104. FOODSPHERE INC.
105. FOOD INDUSTRIES INC.
106. FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILIPPINES INC.
107. FORT BONIFACIO DEVT. CORPORATION
108. FORTUNE TOBACCO CORPORATION
109. FUJITSU PHILIPPINES INC.
110. FRIGATE HOLDINGS MGNT. CORP. (RACKS)
111. GANDOUR PHILIPPINES INC.
112. GARDENIA BAKERIES (PHILS.) INC.
113. GENERAL GARMENTS CORPORATION
114. GENERAL MILLING CORPORATION
115. GENERAL MOTORS AUTOMOBILES PHILS. INC.
116. GERMED PHARMA CORPORATION
117. GETZ BROS. PHILIPPINES INC.
118. GIFT GATE INC.
119. GILLETTE PHILIPPINES INC.
120. GLAXO SMITHKLINE
121. GLOBAL BRANDS
122. GLOBE TELECOM
123. GODIVA INC.
124. GOLD'S GYM
125. GOLDEN ABC INC. (PENSHOPPE)
126. GOLDEN DONUTS INC. (DUNKIN DONUTS)
127. GOLDILOCKS BAKESHOPS INC.
128. GOODYEAR PHILIPPINES INC.
129. GREAT PACIFIC LIFE ASSURANCE CORP.
130. GREENWICH PIZZA CORPORATION
131. GTVL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES INC.
132. HEALTHY OPTIONS
133. HERBCARE CORPORATION
134. HOLIDAY INN MANILA
135. HOLLYWOOD MARKETING
136. HOME DEVT. MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG)
137. HONDA PHILIPPINES INC.
138. HYATT REGENCY MANILA
139. IBM PHILIPPINES INC.
140. IMGAME.COM INC.
141. INBISCO PHILIPPINES INC.
142. INT'L. CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS (ICS)
143. INT'L. DISTILLERS PHILS. INC.
144. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
145. INT'L. FAMILY FOOD SERVICES INC. (SHAKEYS)
146. INT'L. PHARMACEUTICAL INC.
147. ISLAND BISCUITS INC.
148. JAMES HARDIE PHILIPPINES INC.
149. JDH-PHILS. INC. ZUELLIG (FORMERLY ZUELLIG INCHCAP)
150. JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE
151. JOHNSON & JOHNSON PHILIPPINES
152. JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
153. KIMBERLY-CLARK PHILIPPINES INC.
154. KODAK PHILIPPINES LTD.
155. KOLIN PHILIPPINES INT'L. INC.
156. KRAFT FOODS PHILIPPINES INC.
157. LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
158. LA TONDENA DISTILLERS INC.
159. LESLIE CORPORATION
160. LIBERTY COMMODITIES CORPORATION
161. LINEA ITALIA GROUP
162. LKG INVESTMENT & FINANCE CORP.(LKG GROUP)
163. LOYOLA PLANS INC.
164. LUCERNE JEWE[illegible]RS
165. LYRIC PIANO & [illegible]GAN CORPORATION
166. MACLIN ELECTRO[illegible]S INC.
167. MACONDRAY & CO. [illegible]C.
168. MAGNOLIA INC.
169. MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA
170. MANILA MIDTOWN HOTELS & LAND CORP.
171. MANUELA CORPORATION
172. MARIE-FRANCE BODYLINE INT'L. INC.
173. MCDONALDS PHILIPPINES
174. MEGA FISHING CORPORATION
175. MEGA PHILIPPINES
176. MERCURY DRUG CORPORATION
177. METCHEM INDUSTRIAL INC.
178. METRO PHARMA PHILIPPINES INC.
179. METROBANK CARD CORPORATION
180. METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY
181. MGME MARKETING CORPORATION
182. MILADAY GROUP OF COMPANIES
183. MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES CORP.
184. MONDE DENMARK NISSIN BISCUIT CORP.
185. MONTEREY FOODS CORPORATION
186. MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS PHILS. INC.
187. MSI-DIGILAND (PHILS.) INC.
188. MYRA PHARMACEUTICALS INC.
189. NATIONAL BOOKSTORE INC.
190. NATIONAL PANASONIC SALES PHILS. (DIV. OF MEPCO)
191. NESTLE' PHILIPPINES INC.
192. NEWTRENDS INT'L. CORPORATION
193. NEW ZEALAND MILK PRODUCTS PHILS. INC.
194. NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS PHILS. INC.
195. NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF THE PHILS.
196. NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES INC.
197. NOKIA PHILIPPINES INC.
198. NOVARTIS CONSUMER HEALTH PHILS. INC.
199. NUTRIASIA
200. ORIENTAL & MOTOLITE CORPORATION
201. OTT LOUIE PHILS. INC.
202. PACIFIC PLANS INC.
203. PASCUAL LABORATORIES INC.
204. PEPSICO INC. (PHIL. BRANCH)
205. PERFETTI VAN MELLE (PHILS.) INC.
206. PERFUMERIA ESPAÑOLA CORPORATION
207. PETRON CORPORATION
208. PFIZER INC.
209. PHILAM PLANS INC.
210. PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES INC.
211. PHILIPPINE AIRLINES INC.
212. PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE INSURANCE CORP.
213. PHILIPPINE FUJI XEROX
214. PHIL.LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANY
215. PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK
216. PHILIPPINE PIZZA INC.
217. PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
218. PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORPORATION
219. PHILIPS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS
220. PHILUSA CORPORATION
221. PHOTOKINA MARKETING CORPORATION
222. PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORP.

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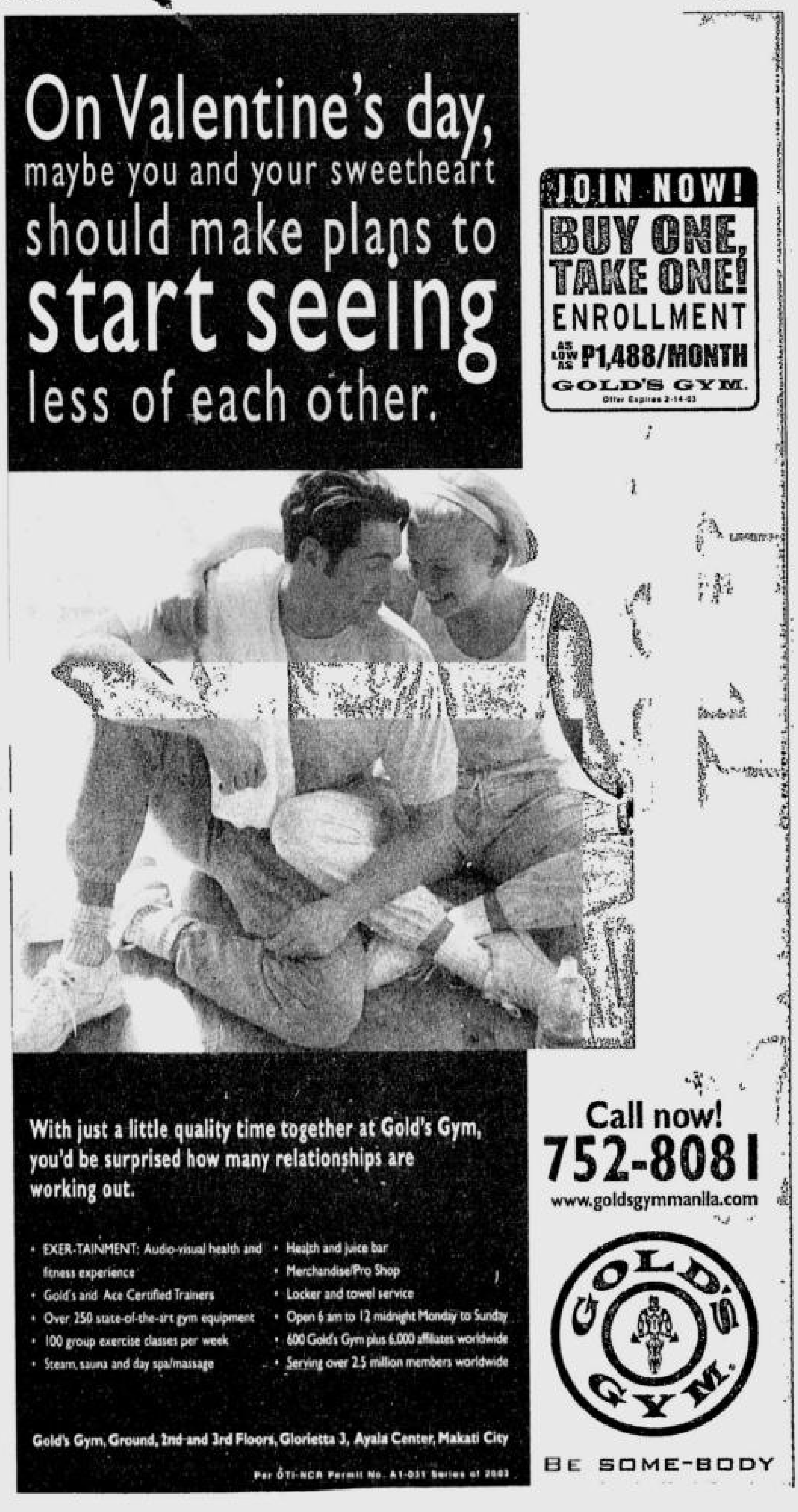
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From page 13

223. PLANTERS DEVELOPMENT BANK
224. PROCTER & GAMBLE DISTRIBUTING PHILS. INC.
225. PRU LIFE INSURANCE OF U.K.
226. PUNTA BALUARTE RESORT
227. QUAKER OATS ASIA INC. (PHIL. BRANCH)
228. RECKITT BENCKISER (PHILS.) INC.
229. REGENT FOOD CORPORATION
230. REPUBLIC BISCUIT CORP. (REBISCO GROUP)
231. REPUBLIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES INC.
232. REYNOLDS TRADING & MARKETING CORP.
233. RICHWELL TRADING CORPORATION
234. RICOH (PHILIPPINES) INC.
235. RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION
236. ROBINSONS INC. (ROBINSONS DEPT. STORE)
237. ROGEMSON ENTERPRISES (The Rogemson Co.)
238. RUSTAN MARKETING CORPORATION
239. SALEM OCEANIC INDUSTRIES CORP.
240. SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILS. CORP.
241. SAN MIGUEL BREWING GROUP
242. SAN MIGUEL FOODS INC.
243. SANOFI -SYNTHELABO PHILIPPINES
244. SANYO (PHILS.) INC.
245. SARA LEE PHILIPPINES INC.
246. SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION
247. SCA HYGIENCE PRODUCTS CORPORATION
248. S.C. JOHNSON & SON INC.
249. SECURITY BANK CORPORATION
250. SECURITY DINERS INTERNATIONAL CORP. 251. SHANGRI-LA PLAZA CORPORATION
252. SHARP (PHILS.) CORP.
253. SHOPPING CENTER MANAGEMENT CORP. (SCMC)
254. SIAM MARIWASA TOTO INC.
255. SIEMENS INC.
256. SLIMMERS WORLD INTERNATIONAL
257. SM INC.
258. SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC.
259. SMARTY TOYS CORPORATION
260. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
261. SOLID DISTRIBUTORS INC.
262. SONY PHILIPPINES INC.
263. SPLASH CORPORATION
264. STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL
265. STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
266. STERLING PAPER PRODUCTS ENT. INC.
267. STIEFEL PHILIPPINES INC.
268. SUGARLAND BEVERAGE CORP.
269. SUNLIFE ASSURANCE CO. OF CANADA
270. SUPERFERRY
271. SUPER MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
272. SUY SING COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
273. SUYEN CORPORATION
274. SWEDISH MATCH PHILIPPINES INC.
275. SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (STI)
276. SYSU INTERNATIONAL INC.
277. TAISHO PHARMA (PHILS.) INC.
278. THE ANDRESONS GROUP INC.
279. THE BOOTS CO. (PHILS.) INC.
280. THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA
281. THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORP.
282. THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE CO. LTD.
283. THE LANDMARK CORPORATION
284. THE PENINSULA MANILA
285. THE PHIL. AMERICAN LIFE AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY (PHILAMLIFE)
286. THE PUREFOODS -HORMEL COMPANY
287. THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA
288. TOTAL FINAELF PHILIPPINES CORP.
289. TOURIST TRADE & TRAVEL CORPORATION
290. TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, CORP.
291. TRANSUNION CORP. (FEDERAL ELECTRIC)
292. TRI-UNION INTERNATIONAL CORP. (CO. B)
293. TRICOM DYNAMICS INC.
294. TUPPERWARE PHILIPPINES
295. TVP DENTAL BRUSH CORPORATION
296. T.W. AND COMPANY
297. UNI-AIR PHILIPPINES INC.
298. UNILAB NUTRITIONALS (FORMERLY PHIL. HEALTH)
299. UNILEVER PHILIPPINES (PRC) INC.
300. UNION AJINOMOTO PHILIPPINES
301. UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
302. UNIPROM INC.
303. UNITED INT'L. PICTURES INC.
304. UNITED LABORATORIES INC. (UNILAB)
305. UNITED OVERSEAS BANK PHILIPPINES
306. UNI-TRADE MERCHANDISING
307. UNIVERSAL ROBINA CORPORATION
308. UNIVET AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INC.
309. VBP GROUP OF COMPANIES
310. VIBELLE MFTG. CORP. & ORIANA MFTG. CO. INC.
311. VIRGINIA FOOD INC.
312. VIVA ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
313. WARREN MANUFACTURING CORP.
314. WENPHIL CORPORATION (WENDY'S)
315. WESTERN MARKETING CORPORATION
316. WIDE WIDE WORLD EXPRESS CORP.
317. WRIGLEY PHILIPPINES INC.
318. WYETH CONSUMER HEALTHCARE
319. WYETH PHILIPPINES INC.
320. YAKULT PHILIPPINES INC.
321. ZENCO SALES INC.
322. ZEST-O CORPORATION (SEMEXCO)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS (UNDER PROBATIONARY)

1. BELO MEDICAL GROUP
2. CALTEX PHILIPPINES INC.
3. CAMPBELL SOUP ASIA LIMITED
4. CATHAY BUILDER'S CENTER INC.
5. COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES INC.
6. COMPAQ COMPUTER PHILIPPINES
7. ELECTROLUX PHILIPPINES INC.
8. FIRST ASIA MOBILE INC.
9. HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES INC.
10. INFORMATICS HOLDINGS PHILS. INC.
11. INTEL MICROELECTRONICS
12. JARDINE DAVIES INC. (AGCHEM)
13. J-SING BROS. INC.
14. LG COLLINS ELECTRONICS MANILA
15. MASTERCARD INT'L. PHILS. INC.
16. MAVERICK FILMS
17. MINDGATE SYSTEMS INC.
18. MONDEX PHILIPPINES INC.
19. NIKE PHILIPPINES INC.
20. ORACLE (PHILS.) CORPORATION
21. ORTIGAS & COMPANY, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
22. 7RD REALTY INC.
23. RIVERS OF LIFE PROPERTY & DEVT. CORP.
24. SHOEMAKER'S SHOP INC.
25. TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC.
26. UNIVERSAL MOTORS CORPORATION

The Pana hymn

Composed by: Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, dba
Lyrics: Anna Ventura of Oeno System

One voice we dare to speak, leading all men to seek
The will to drive all fear, our message loud and clear.

Hail PANA, source of our true bliss
Inspiring leaders with a vision
Merchants of dreams, builders of peace
We ask you to raise your hands as one

Communicate, to men of faith,
One hope, one song of faith.

Refrain:
Rise up, and dare to change the world
Speak to hearts and minds that see
Pride and fear from life will fade
For only truth will set us free.

PANA will dare to change the world
Touch all hearts and minds that see,
Pride and fear from life will flee
For only truth will set us free.

New Touch Mobile
Super Value SIM
Ang bigating SIM
na magaan sa bulsa!
prepaid GSM
P170 lang
touch mobile
Proven Bigatin!
245 phone book entries
Store up to 30 messages
Proven Nationwide
Over 2,300 cell sites nationwide
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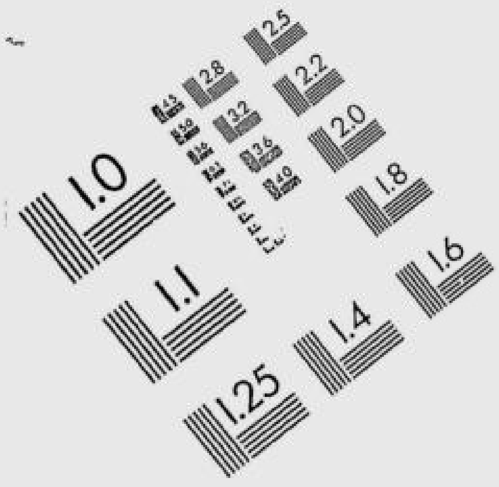
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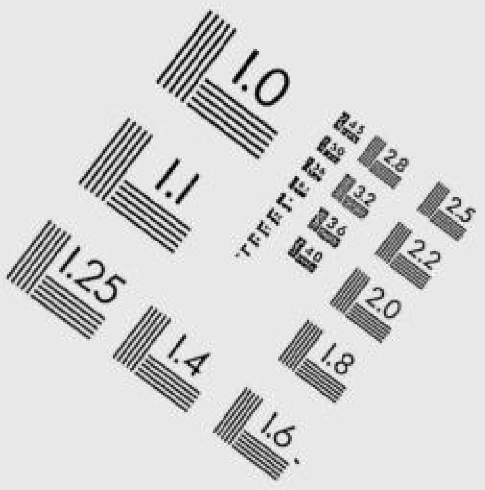
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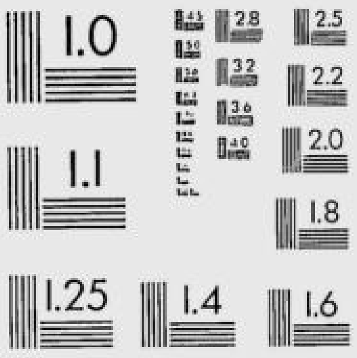
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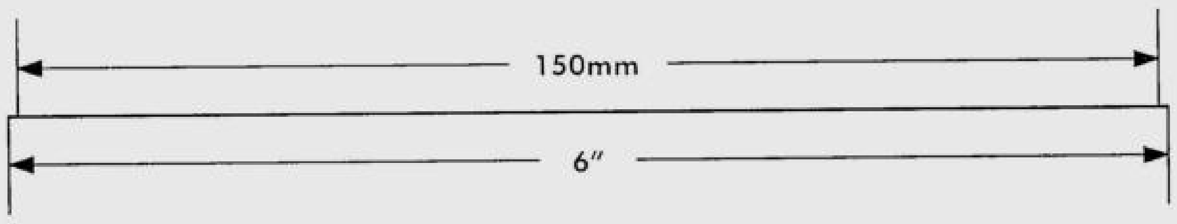

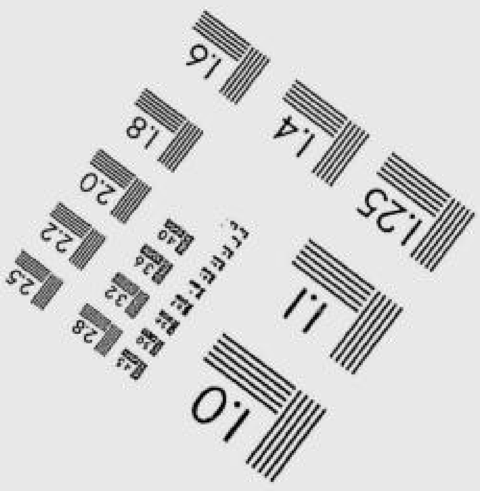
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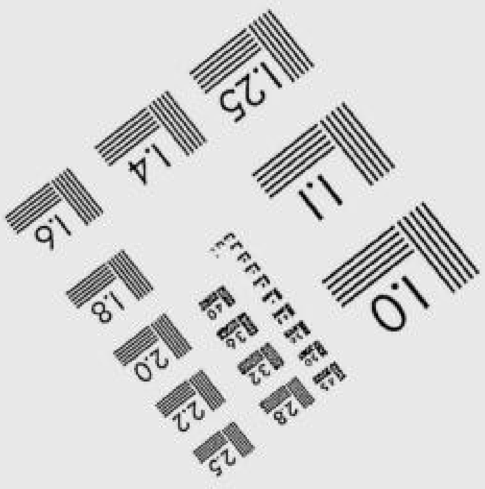
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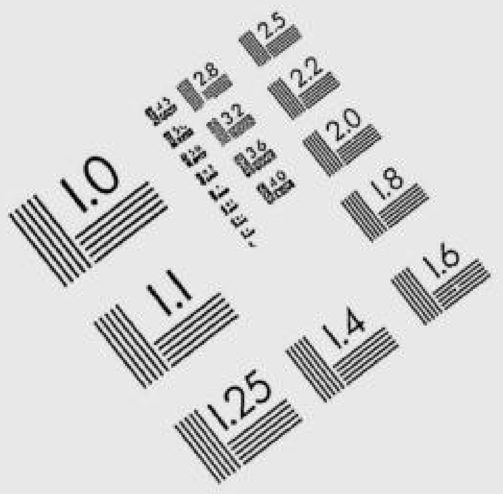
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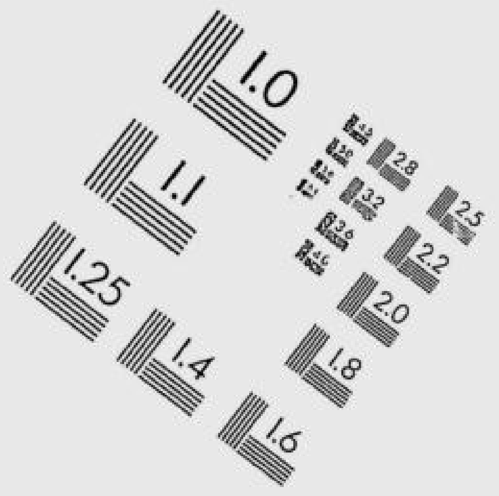
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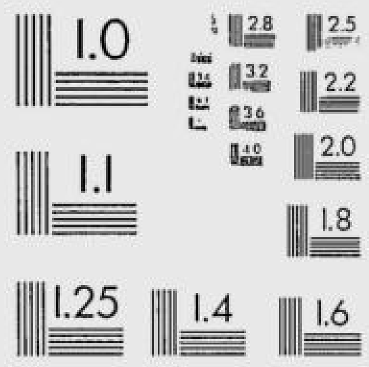
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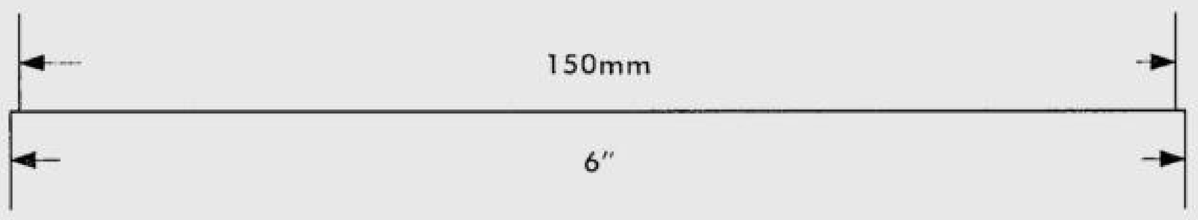

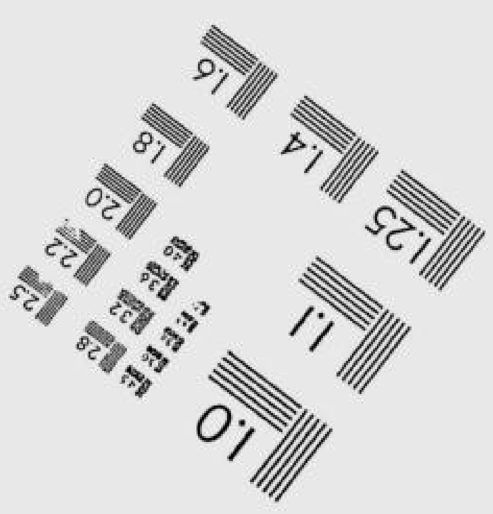
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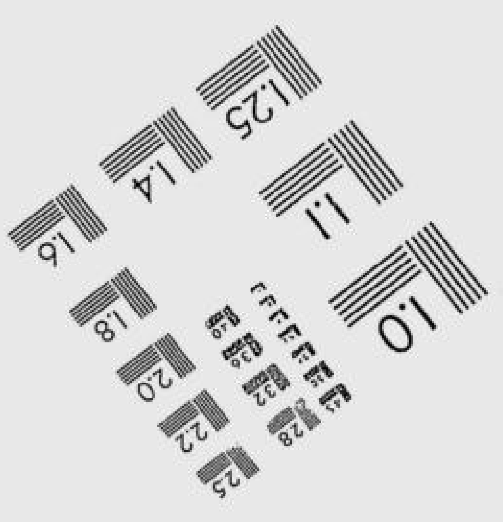
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